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Andrew Baharally takes an order from his family's food truck, The Rolling Roti, during opening night Friday at WestSide Square Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

A TASTY CRUNCH AND A HAPPY CROWD

WestSide Square, Hartford's first food truck park, opens to rave reviews

By Susan Dunne | Hartford Courant

Kelsey Renfro, who lives in the West End of Hartford, joined other members of that community on Friday afternoon to check out the newest eating place: WestSide Square, a food truck park on Farmington Avenue.

"This is awesome. We are super excited. It's nice to see a local business here rather than a McDonald's," Renfro said. Emily McKenna, also an area resident, agreed. She enjoyed ham and cheese croquettes bought from one of the trucks.

"I can't wait to see when the sun goes down and all these

lights come on," she said. "It will be such a visual lift for the community."

WestSide Square was able to have its grand opening Friday after a long delay due to zoning, permitting and construction glitches.

Co-developers Quan and Rebeca Quach finally got the permits on Thursday. They quickly called some food-truck friends and a band to introduce their vision to the community. Throughout the opening day, the Quaches accepted

Turn to Trucks, Page 3



People gather together to eat on opening night Friday at WestSide Square Hartford.

Stem cell therapy offers hope — but high costs

John Berry, a beloved former middle school math and science teacher in Farmington, is battling gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. **FILE**



By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, Kate Barbour stood in her ex-husband John Berry's front yard in Farmington, helping her blended family sell off some of their belongings to raise money for his expensive medical care for non-Hodgkin lymphoma and gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma, a rare, aggressive form of cancer that led to a stem cell transplant.

Shadowed by the large 1700s farmhouse where John, a 72-year-old retired math and science teacher in Farmington Public Schools, and his wife, Joan Berry, have been in

a strict nonstop quarantine for more than two years, Barbour and daughter Gwenn Berry worked to clear out space in the home and raise as much as they could from the name-your-own-price sale of tea kettles, candles, artwork and knick-knacks.

On that same lawn two years earlier, when the garden was covered in winter frost, Gwenn Berry joined her parents, her in-laws and just two close friends for a wedding ceremony that was much smaller and sooner than she had planned so that she could walk down the aisle with her father

Turn to Berry, Page 3

Electrical demand soars in heat wave

Pressure mounts on 'small' surplus in New England to power air conditioners

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

As a heat wave bakes the Northeast, demand is soaring for electricity that's powering air conditioners, pressing New England's "relatively small" electricity surplus, according to the region's grid operator.

ISO on Friday reported a capacity of 26,690 megawatts and an excess of 95 megawatts. The capacity is down slightly from Thursday and the surplus fell from 293 megawatts.

However, peaking plants that step in when needed will assure enough energy is available, said a spokesman for ISO-New England.

The oppressive humidity should return statewide by Saturday night, and it will continue through Monday.

Spokesman Matthew Kakley said Thursday it's a "relatively small surplus," but so-called fast-start resources, such as peaking plants that supply power in a pinch, can be tapped beyond what's available to meet expected peak demand.

In addition, power plants can count on operating reserves of about 2,600 megawatts, he said.

Peak demand was forecast Friday at 23,750, up slightly from 23,318 megawatts Thursday. Though high, it's not among the top 10 days when demand was greater on several July and August days in 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011 and 2013, according to ISO.

The highest summer peak demand was 28,130 megawatts on Aug. 2, 2006.

ISO says if generator or transmission line outages were to occur, the grid operator could call on resources held

Turn to Electricity, Page 2

Jurors hand Bannon a guilty verdict

Trump ally defied subpoena issued by Jan. 6 investigators

By Aishvarya Kavi and Alan Feuer
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — For weeks, Steve Bannon, a former top adviser to former President Donald Trump, delivered heated speeches about his pending trial, promising at one point to go "medieval" on the prosecutors who had charged him with refusing to comply with a subpoena issued by the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

But Friday, after deciding not to testify or mount any other sort of defense in court, Bannon was convicted of two counts of contempt of Congress.

The jury's verdict, reached after less than three hours of deliberations, came one day after video of Bannon briefly appeared in a public hearing of the House committee he had snubbed. Investigators played a clip of him saying that Trump had planned to declare victory in the 2020 election, no matter the results.

Bannon remained defiant outside the courthouse, saying the prosecution's assertion that he had chosen "allegiance to Donald Trump over compliance with the law" was correct, but omitted an important detail.

"I stand with Trump and the Constitution," Bannon said. "I will never back off that."

U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols set

Turn to Bannon, Page 7

Hartford postpones DominGO! due to oppressive heat

Due to the heat advisory in effect this weekend, the city will rescheduling the DominGO! Hartford event on Park Street to Sunday, Sept. 25, Mayor Luke Bronin said. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Army reservist from Bolton killed by lightning in Georgia

Associated Press

FORT GORDON, Ga. — The U.S. military Thursday identified a soldier killed by a lightning strike at a Georgia base as a 41-year-old Army reservist assigned to a medical team that performs emergency surgery in combat zones.

Sgt. 1st Class Michael D. Clark of Bolton, served for 22 years on active duty and as a reservist and had deployed four times to Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Army Reserve said in a statement. It said

Clark died and nine other soldiers were injured Wednesday when lightning struck the group during a training exercise at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Georgia.

Clark was rushed to the Army post’s hospital along with the injured soldiers. All nine survivors were in good condition Thursday, the Army Reserve said.

Clark and eight of the injured soldiers were assigned to the 933rd Forward Resuscitative Surgical Company, which performs emergency surgery and other urgent

treatment on wounded soldiers in combat. The unit is based in Paducah, Kentucky.

“Sgt. 1st Clark was a loving husband, father, and a Patriot who deeply loved our country,” the company’s commander, Maj. Stephen W. Rhinehart, said in a statement. “His leadership, knowledge, experience, and love for his fellow soldiers was immeasurable.”

Soldiers from the 933rd were visiting Fort Gordon for an annual training exercise for medical units to improve their skills in the field.



One soldier was killed and nine others were injured in a lightning strike on Wednesday at the Fort Gordon Army base in Georgia, a spokeswoman said. **U.S. ARMY**

Electricity

from Page 1

in reserve, import emergency power from neighboring regions, ask businesses and residents to conserve electricity or put in place emergency procedures.

“Climate change has caused weather to become more volatile and less predictable, increasing the potential for system operators to resort to these actions,” ISO warned.

ISO’s summer forecast was for 26,416 megawatts, during “above average weather,” with an available capacity expected of 31,000 megawatts.

Dan Dolan, president of the New England Power Generators Association, said so-called “fast start resources,” peaking plants that are used at peak times would be brought into service in the event of an extended heat wave pushing demand to as much as 28 megawatts.

“While this is certainly hot, we’ve experienced heat waves fairly regularly,” he said. “This is still weather that we expect and the system is designed for.”

Temperatures have topped 90 degrees in the Northeast since earlier this week and are expected to exceed the mid-90s Friday and into the weekend.

The availability of power despite a grinding heat wave contrasts with last winter when ISO warned that power outages were possible if an extended cold snap gripped the region and fuel supplies were pinched as demand spiked.

The issue during cold snaps is



At the Joseph V. Cronin Park in Hartford, 7-year-old Mobolaji Ajiboye and his older cousin, Micah Dias-Leon, 8, cool off, splashing in the fountains. **DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT**

diverting fuel to heat homes and businesses, taking it from power plants that generate electricity, Dolan said.

The big issue now is the price

of energy caused by the pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, he said. “That’s where we’re seeing the biggest impact,” he said.

Consumers can avoid price volatility by buying electricity sold as part of a utility’s standard offer that has locked prices in for months or years, Dolan said. Still,

he said, “there’s no way to sugar-coat it. Prices have been high.”

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY

Friday, July 22

PLAY3 DAY

1 7 8 WB: 2

PLAY4 DAY

6 8 2 4 WB: 8

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

THURSDAY’S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

1 1 2 WB: 5

PLAY4 NIGHT

6 7 0 5 WB: 8

CASH 5

22 23 27 33 35

LUCKY FOR LIFE

19 24 25 29 31 LB: 8

Tuesday’s est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.7M

Tonight’s est. Powerball jackpot: \$119M



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FROM PAGE ONE

Berry

from Page 1

amidst his increasing illness and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The father and daughter stood far apart as they walked toward the altar, separated by a 10-foot pole decorated with flowers and white ribbon that they handcrafted to help them keep a safe distance. Loved ones looked on from their cars, parked in the driveway with goodie bags of food and champagne to keep them far enough away. Berry's illness, and the treatment for it, make every risk more of a threat for him, from COVID-19 to the common cold to everyday germs in the house.

For two years, the Berrys have done nothing but keep John healthy as he battles two types of cancer. They've added massive freezers to their porch to limit the frequency of grocery deliveries. They've avoided takeout to keep away from any germs that might be on a pizza box or to-go container. They've had haircuts done on their porch, and they've stayed inside, the two of them, except for their many trips to the Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Now, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but it comes with a cost.

A double diagnosis

Berry was diagnosed in 2013 with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. After two years of aggressive treatment, he beat the cancer in 2015.

But then, in the summer of 2020, he started to notice symptoms again. He went to his doctor, thinking the non-Hodgkin lymphoma was back.

"He went and got checked and lo and behold, he had a whole other kind [of cancer]," Joan said.

Berry was diagnosed with gamma-delta T-cell lymphoma. He underwent extensive and expensive chemotherapy, and then things got worse.

"In the middle of all that treatment and waiting for the treatment he needed that was put off by the pandemic, his old cancer came back. He had to then be treated for that while undergoing his other treatments in the midst of the pandemic," said Joan.

For years, John has undergone costly and exhausting treatments and chemotherapy and has seen very little improvement. He became part of a clinical study for an expensive and new targeted biological agent called Copiktra, which allowed him to be eligible for what his doctors knew he needed: a stem cell transplant.

John's best bet was the stem-cell transplant, but the COVID-19 pandemic stopped those procedures for everyone except patients who were on the brink of death. A shortage in ICU beds and spikes in COVID infections caused delays, moving the Berrys further and further away from the potentially life-saving treatment.

This month, it was finally his turn.

They waited for a donor — which came eventually in the form of a 48-year-old man from Germany. Then they waited again for the procedure to be safe for him. On July 8, it finally happened.



John Berry's daughter Gwenn describes her father as a passionate person who cares very deeply about the environment and justice for all. **FILE PHOTOS**

John has been at Yale New Haven Hospital since the beginning of July to prepare, undergo and recover from the stem-cell transplant. His recovery is going as planned, said Joan, but isn't an easy road. His wife said it has been hard to hear how sick he's been feeling since the surgery when she calls him every day.

"What you have to do is purposely destroy your entire immune system in order to give you stem cells and basically build a new one from scratch," said Joan, adding that she tried to explain the complicated process like she would have to her fourth-grade students when she was a teacher.

That means all vaccines he's had in the past, including for COVID-19, were wiped out.

John is scheduled to come home this weekend, but his home needs significant repairs and preparations to make it safe for his weakened immune system. Those projects, essential to keeping John safe, will cost more than \$15,000 out of pocket. In addition, the Berrys have been hit with hefty medical bills from years and years of treatments and medications.

They've done some fundraising throughout Berry's treatment, but are hesitant to ask for help. They are appreciative of all the help they have gotten, but they also



John Berry met his wife Joan, a fourth-grade teacher in Farmington, through their jobs and proposed in her classroom as her students cheered for their engagement.

want to help John recover.

A beloved teacher

John, a former graphic designer, taught math and science at Irving A. Robbins Middle School where he was revered by his students and their families who have kept in contact long after they left his classroom.

Barbour said John would pour over his lesson plans for hours and find unique, entertaining ways to engage his students, like playing the

guitar in class.

"He is just so incredibly dedicated," said Barbour, "People all around town know him. He's just a warm, giving, wonderful person."

With a passion for the environment, Berry launched the school's Green Team club which quickly became its most popular extracurricular and spawned events like a musical about the environment and trips to the state capitol with hundreds of students who called on legislators for environmental advocacy under Berry's lead.

Berry met Joan, a fourth-grade teacher in Farmington, through their jobs and proposed in her classroom as her students cheered for their engagement, with the news announced over the school's intercom system.

Gwenn Berry, 32, grew up going to school in Farmington with her sister, Rebecca Berry, as their dad taught and led clubs in the school.

"To sum up my dad, he's a force," she said. "He is an incredibly passionate person about a lot of causes that are very dear to him, especially the environment and justice for all. He definitely wears his heart on his sleeve," she said.

The youngest daughter said that her father's passion and drive to fight the good fight is infectious. He's influenced her and her family, along with so many of his students,

to make the world a better place.

"He's relentless, he's relentless in what he's going through right now and he's relentless in his pursuit of a better world," she said.

But even the most forceful, relentless of people sometimes need help.

A helping hand

Unlike another illness, rough patch or injury, the Berrys can't accept much help in their situation. They can't take friends up on their offers to clean their house or help run errands or do chores. They can't accept casseroles or dinner deliveries. John's condition is so precarious that their exposure to the outside world is limited to the absolute necessities.

Still, Joan said they've "experienced kindnesses front, left and sideways" from people all throughout their community.

The best way for people to help is to donate to the "astronomical costs," as Barbour put it, of his medical care, safety and sanitation needs. The Berrys learned recently that the cost of the Copiktra prescriptions had risen, making their out-of-pocket copay \$4,000 a month.

"With this and many other expenses and challenges, they face an overwhelming emotional and financial burden," Joan's brother, Ad Campbell, wrote on their GoFundMe page.

Additionally, Barbour said the family was caught off guard by needed home repairs and sanitation while grappling with the medical costs.

"He can't come home unless it's a safe, controlled environment. Any [other conditions] are just the worst possible thing for someone that has no immune system. And some of these are total blindsides unexpected expenses," she said.

The Berrys and Barbours are hoping that hours of work and thousands of dollars will get the home ready to welcome John back soon for his long, careful recovery. Joan said that after two years in what she calls "the bubble," they hope to get back to living their lives this year or next.

"We were all in a bubble in 2020, but for us, we had to just ratchet it up. We truly have been in our house. Other than hospitals and doing drive-thru to get our vaccines and boosters, we've been in the house since March 12 2020," Joan said.

John loves to play blues music, his wife said, and used to host an annual "Bluesberry Coffee House" with his daughters before the pandemic. John and Joan are hopeful the sounds of singing and guitar-playing will fill the home again; that visits with Rebecca Berry and their granddaughter Mattea Berry in Illinois will be safe enough to resume; and that they can someday return to their favorite place, Quebec, where they've vacationed every year since they spent their honeymoon in the city 24 years ago.

John is expected to come home from the hospital, new stem cells and all, this weekend.

*The Berrys' GoFundMe page can be found at gofundme.com/f/help-for-john-and-joan. The family also asks that people consider donating to *Be The Match* to help more families like themselves.*

Trucks

from Page 1

handshakes, congratulations and thank yous from West End neighbors.

The park, at 510 Farmington Ave. on the corner of Farmington and Girard Avenues, will be open from 4 to 9 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday.

The trucks on opening day were The Rolling Roti, which specializes in Guyanese food such as goat curry and wraps with chana and pumpkin; and Brazilian Gula, well known in the area for their stall in Parkville Market food hall, which sells dishes like churrasquinho, feijoada, coxinhas and Brazilian Guarana Antarctica soda.

Curbside Vibes, which sells wings, rice bowls, burgers and wraps, also was scheduled but had mechanical issues with its truck.

Quan Quach said he has about 16 to 17 trucks interested in participating in the rotation. The truck and entertainment lineup will be listed on WestSide Square's Facebook and Instagram pages every morning.

The park has a central pergola, a stage and seating on huge wooden wire spools. A wall of various sizes of windows separates the park from the street. Quan Quach used repurposed materials.

Local resident Robert Page said he especially appreciates this aspect of the park.

"Seeing all this scrap put together piece by piece by piece and be transformed into something like this just inspires me and makes me proud," Page said. "I've been watching this empty lot for years. To see this happen gives me hope, to see people with vision

build this."

Early in the afternoon, parents sat at the tables while children played under the shaded pergola. They ate and enjoyed giant games of Jenga, Connect 4 and ping-pong. They gathered around the tall coolers full of ice water, a welcome relief from the 90-plus degree heat.

Later in the evening, Kenyon, a band made up of Joseph Linhart, Aaron Patterson, Peter Kennedy and David Reynolds, took the stage and performed.

The opening of the park in that location was not without its drama. The lot was the focus of a nine-year lawsuit against the city that began when the lot's owners were blocked from building a McDonald's with a drive-through. The suit was settled last year in the owners' favor, long after McDonald's lost interest in the site.

A few weeks ago, the city of Hartford announced it would buy the lot, to the surprise of the Quaches. At the time of that announcement, city officials said they were looking for a developer who would build a mixed-use retail and apartment building there.

The Quaches have a month-to-month lease. Quan Quach said he is not worried.

"I have faith in the neighborhood people and the city to love us and want us to stick around," he said.

That strip has a Burger King, a KFC and a Subway restaurant. "Absolutely everybody in the neighborhood is glad it's not a McDonald's," McKenna said.

Quan Quach said he has a liquor license and in a few weeks he will open a small bar on the site. After a few more months, he will bring in a decommissioned Philadelphia tourist bus to be home to the



Leslieann Ramos, of Hartford, cools off with a sip of a passion fruit drink from the Brazilian Gula Grill during opening night Friday at WestSide Square Hartford. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

permanent, larger bar.

The food truck operators are excited to have a new place to sell their food.

"I think it's dope. The whole design aesthetic, the wood and stuff, has an old-school kind of feel," said Drew Baharally, co-owner of Rolling Roti.

Adeilton deCarvalho, owner of Brazilian Gula, hopes the park

helps to revitalize the city.

"This will bring back life to the neighborhood," he said. "This will excite people and give them a positive attitude. We need things like this to bring people from all towns into Hartford."

It brought in Daniel Hernandez from Springfield.

"It showed up somewhere online and I thought it sounded

cool," he said, as he munched on chicken tenders. "They have a nice set up here. It's a good place to bring kids."

Other than the trucks, no motorized vehicles are allowed on the property. Visitors can arrive by foot or by bicycle.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com

Doctors: Biden’s symptoms improve

President working and isolated after COVID-19 diagnosis

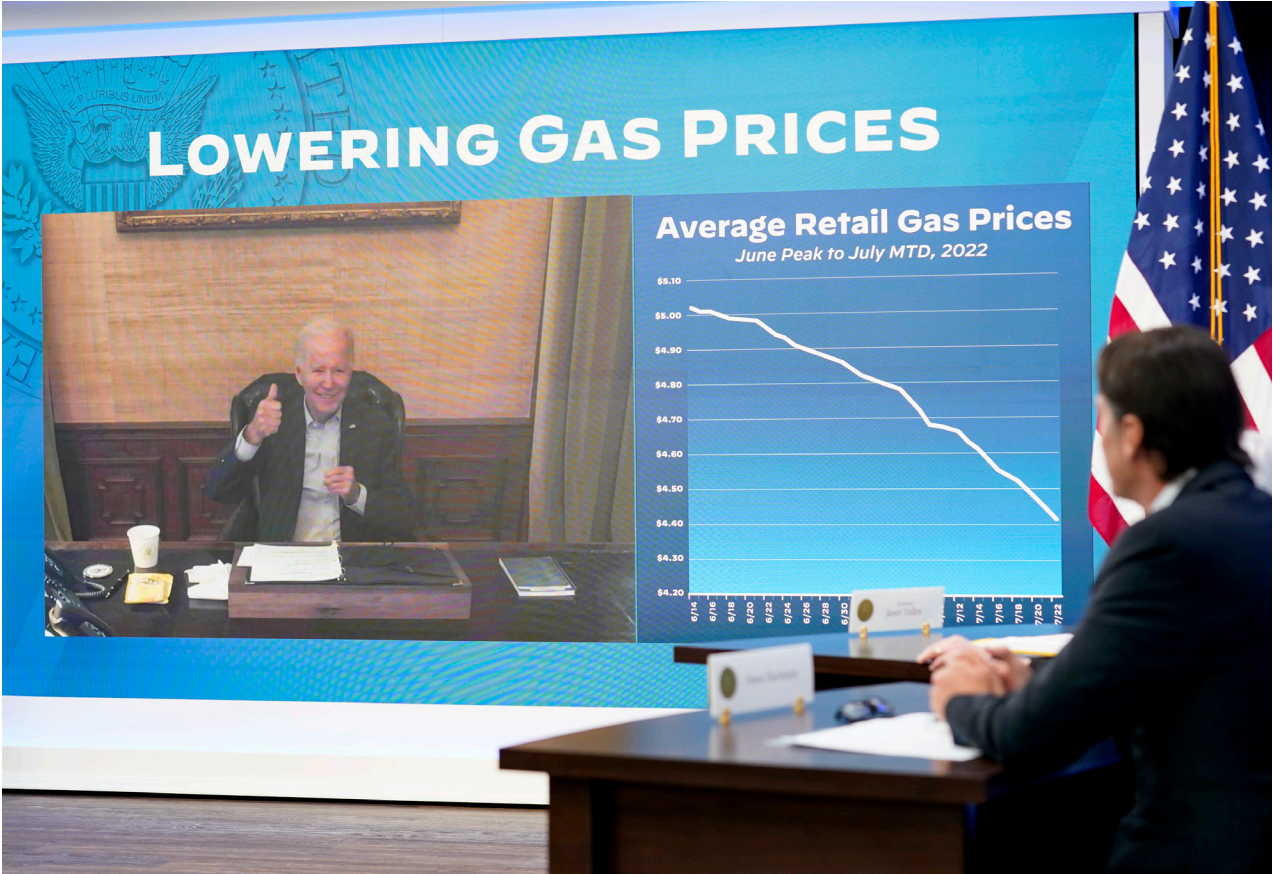
By Will Weissert, Chris Megerian and Seung Min Kim
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — COVID-19 symptoms left President Joe Biden with a raspy voice and cough as he met Friday via videoconference with his top economic team. But the president tried to strike a reassuring tone, declaring, “I feel much better than I sound.” Biden took off a mask and sipped water as he opened the meeting to discuss the decline in gas prices in recent weeks. Reporters were allowed into a White House auditorium to view a few minutes of the proceedings, and when they asked how Biden was feeling, he flashed a thumbs-up.

The president’s doctors said his mild COVID-19 symptoms were improving and he was responding well to treatment, as the White House worked to portray the image of a president still on the job despite his illness. He received his presidential daily security briefing via video call while, separately, Chinese President Xi Jinping wished Biden a “speedy recovery.”

Biden had an elevated temperature of 99.4 Thursday, but that went down with Tylenol, according to a new note from Dr. Kevin O’Connor, the president’s personal physician. Biden also used an inhaler a few times but hasn’t experienced shortness of breath.

The president completed his first full day of Paxlovid, the antiviral therapy treat-



President Joe Biden flashes a thumbs-up during a virtual meeting with his economic team on Friday in the White House. Biden, the oldest sitting president in American history at 79, was diagnosed with COVID-19 on Thursday. **ANDREW HARNIK/AP**

ment meant to reduce the severity of COVID-19, and Biden’s primary symptoms were a runny nose, fatigue and a loose cough. Other metrics, such as pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and oxygen saturation were normal, O’Connor said, although the White House did not release specific figures.

“The president is doing better,” White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha, who spoke to the president via video call, said during a Friday briefing with reporters.

He noted that Biden was in a good mood, had slept

well, and ate a full breakfast and lunch.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden told her he was working “8-plus hours a day.” She said 17 people were determined to have been in close contact with Biden when he might have been contagious, including members of his senior staff. None have tested positive, she said.

Jha said Biden will remain in isolation in the White House living quarters for five days and then be tested anew. The president plans to return to work once he tests negative.

“He is getting world-class treatment, exactly what you

would expect,” Jha said, while also noting that “All Americans have easy, free access to the same world-class treatment that he’s getting.”

Once Biden tested positive Thursday — after more than two years of successfully dodging the virus — the White House sprung into action, aiming to dispel any notion of a crisis and to turn his diagnosis into what chief of staff Ron Klain said he hoped would be a “teachable moment.”

The White House released a photo Friday of Biden, masked and tieless, in the Treaty Room of the president’s residence, on

the phone with his national security advisers. After the economic team meeting, he was planning a separate discussion with senior White House advisers to discuss legislative priorities. Jha said his hoarse voice might actually be a sign that he is improving rather than the alternative.

It was part of an administration effort to shift the narrative from a health scare to a display of Biden as the personification of the idea that most Americans can get COVID-19 and recover without too much suffering and disruption if they’ve gotten their shots and taken other important steps to protect

themselves.

The message was crafted to alleviate voters’ concerns about Biden’s health — at 79, he’s the oldest person ever to be president. And it was aimed at demonstrating to the country that the pandemic is far less of a threat than it was before Biden took office, thanks to widespread vaccines and new therapeutic drugs.

Conveying that sentiment wasn’t always easy, though.

In the two briefings since the president’s diagnosis, Jean-Pierre has repeatedly parried with reporters over specifics. When pressed about where Biden might have contracted the virus, she responded on Thursday, “I don’t think that that matters, right? I think what matters is we prepared for this moment.”

Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said it’s important for Americans to know they must remain careful about the virus, which continues to kill hundreds of people daily.

“That’s the balance that we have to strike,” Osterholm said. “The president of the United States will do very well. But that may not be true for everyone.”

Biden’s case is being prioritized, and Jha said Friday that it’ll likely be next week for sequencing to determine which variant of the virus Biden contracted.

Omicron’s highly contagious BA.5 substrain is responsible for 78% of new COVID-19 infections reported in the U.S. last week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s latest data released Tuesday.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia, Ukraine sign deal freeing up grain exports

Agreement hailed as chance to ease world food crisis

By Ayse Wieting and Suzan Fraser
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Russia and Ukraine signed separate agreements Friday with Turkey and the United Nations clearing the way for the export of millions of tons of desperately needed Ukrainian grain — as well as some Russian grain and fertilizer — across the Black Sea. The long-sought deal ends a wartime standoff that has threatened food security around the globe.

The U.N. plan will enable Ukraine — one of the world’s key breadbaskets — to export 22 million tons of grain and other agricultural goods stuck in Black Sea ports due to Russia’s invasion. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called it “a beacon of hope” for millions of hungry people facing huge increases in the price of food.

“A deal that allows grain to leave Black Sea ports is nothing short of lifesaving for people across the world who are struggling to feed their families,” said Red Cross

Director-General Robert Mardini. He noted that over the past six months, prices for food have risen 187% in Sudan, 86% in Syria and 60% in Yemen, just to name a few countries.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov signed separate, identical deals Friday with Guterres and Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar at a ceremony witnessed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul. Russia and Ukraine would not sign any deal directly with each other.

Guterres described the deal as an unprecedented agreement between two parties engaged in a bloody conflict. Erdogan hoped it would be “a new turning point that will revive hopes for peace.”

Yet in Kyiv, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba sounded a more somber note.

“I’m not opening a bottle of Champagne because of this deal,” Kuleba said. “I will keep my fingers crossed that this will work, that ships will carry grain to world markets and prices will go down and people will

have food to eat. But I’m very cautious because I have no trust in Russia.”

The European Union immediately welcomed the news.

“This is a critical step forward in efforts to overcome the global food insecurity caused by Russia’s aggression against Ukraine,” said EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell.

Ukraine is one of the world’s largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia’s invasion of the country and naval blockade of its ports have halted shipments. Some Ukrainian grain is being transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but the prices of vital commodities like wheat and barley have soared during the war.

Although international sanctions against Russia did not target food exports, the war has disrupted shipments of Russian products because shipping and insurance companies did not want to deal with Russia.

Guterres said the plan, known as the Black Sea Initiative, opens a path for significant volumes of commercial food exports from three key Ukrainian ports: Odesa, Chernomorsk



Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, left, shakes hands with Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar during a signing ceremony Friday in Istanbul that included U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, seated left, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. **KHALIL HAMRA/AP**

and Yuzhny.

The agreement, obtained by the AP, says a joint coordination center will be set up in Istanbul staffed by officials from Ukraine, Russia, Turkey and the U.N. to run the plan, including scheduling cargo ships’ arrivals and departures. The center will be headed by a U.N. official.

Inspection teams with representatives from all parties in Turkey will search vessels entering and leaving Ukrainian ports to ensure there are no weapons or soldiers on board. Inspections will take place at the

entry and exit of the Bosphorus.

Under the deal, “all activities in Ukrainian territorial waters will be under authority and responsibility of Ukraine,” and the parties agree not to carry out attacks against vessels and port facilities in the initiative. If demining is required to make the shipping lanes safe, a minesweeper from another country could clear the approaches to Ukrainian ports.

The sides will monitor the movement of ships remotely and no military ships, aircraft or drones

will be allowed to approach “the maritime humanitarian corridor” closer than a distance set by the center. The agreement will remain in effect for 120 days and can be extended automatically.

A senior U.N. official said it will take a few weeks before the deal is fully working, adding that Ukraine needs about 10 days to get the ports ready and also needs time to “identify and be clear about those safe corridors.” The aim is to export 5 million tons of grains per month to empty Ukraine’s silos in time for this year’s harvest.

Air Force idea: Give Ukraine warplanes, training

By Julian E. Barnes
The New York Times

U.S. Air Force leaders have raised the possibility of training Ukrainian pilots in the United States and giving Ukraine the U.S. fleet of A-10 Warthog ground-attack planes — an idea that could solve a problem for both countries.

The notion is a classic trial balloon. Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall this week entertained the idea of giving the A-10 planes to

Ukraine, while adding it was still in the discussion phase.

Such a plan could make sense. Ukraine needs more air power and more ways to destroy Russian artillery and tanks, and the Warthog was designed during the Cold War to do just that.

And the Air Force has for years wanted to get rid of the A-10s. That would free up maintenance money for new planes that can be used for multiple purposes and would be more effective in a possible conflict with China.

But Congress has blocked every attempt to retire the A-10.

Under the Obama administration, Defense Secretary Robert Gates tried to retire the plane, only to be opposed by Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H. Congress instead approved money to modernize and extend the life of the planes, a project that was completed in 2019.

Under Kendall, the Air Force has tried to retire the planes to save money to modernize the military. But

the most recent attempt to mothball the Warthog was blocked by Sen. Mark Kelly, D-Ariz.

Meanwhile, the White House on Friday announced an additional \$270 million in security assistance to Ukraine.

That brings the total U.S. security assistance committed to Ukraine by the Biden administration to \$8.2 billion. It’s being paid for via \$40 billion in economic and security aid approved by Congress in May.



Air Force officials are mulling the notion of giving A-10 Warthog planes to Ukraine. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2019**

The new package includes four High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, or HIMARS, and will allow Kyiv to acquire up to 580 Phoenix Ghost drones. The

latest assistance includes some 36,000 rounds of artillery ammunition.

The Associated Press contributed.

WORLD & NATION

Debate on nonbinary Spanish rages

In Argentina, fight shifts from public opinion to policy

By Ana Lankes
The New York Times

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Instead of “amigos,” the Spanish word for “friends,” some Spanish speakers use “amigues.” In place of “todos,” or “all,” some write “todxs.” And some signs that would say “bienvenidos,” or “welcome,” now say “bienvenidos@s.”

The changes, which had been informally adopted by teachers in schools across Buenos Aires, were a deliberate effort to include people who do not identify as male or female in a language where many words are categorized as either masculine or feminine.

Similar gender-neutral language is being increasingly introduced across Latin America, as well as in other languages, including English and French, by supporters who say it helps create a more inclusive society.

But to some Spanish speakers, including many academics and politicians, the changes degrade a language spoken by 500 million people around the world.

In Argentina, the tension has shifted from a war of public opinion to a battle over policy.

The city government in Buenos Aires, the nation’s capital, last month banned teachers from using any gender-neutral words during class and in communications with parents. The city’s education minister said such language violated the rules of Spanish and stymied students’ reading comprehension.

The policy, among the first anywhere to specifically forbid the use of gender-neutral language, provoked a swift backlash. Argentina’s top education official criticized the rule,



Agostina Fernandez Tirra, left, and Luana Pereyra, LGBTQ rights activists, hold a sign using gender-neutral language June 30 at their school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The city bans gender-neutral language in schools. SARAH PABST/THE NEW YORK TIMES

and at least five organizations — a mix of gay rights and civil rights groups — have filed lawsuits seeking to overturn it.

Jaime Perczyk, Argentina’s education minister, compared the measure to prohibitions against left-handed writing under the fascist dictatorship of Francisco Franco in Spain. “They thought they were correcting something, but it goes much deeper,” he said, explaining that students use gender-neutral language as a tool to fight sexist attitudes prevalent in Argentine culture.

In Romance languages, including Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese, the debate over gender-neutral terminology can be particularly fierce because all grammar is gendered.

The debate has become part of an emerging culture war in Latin America. In December, Uruguay’s public education agency issued a

memo limiting the use of inclusive language to be “in accordance with the rules of the Spanish language.”

The push for changes to Romance languages originated among feminists, in at least the 1970s, who challenged the use of the generic masculine, a grammatical rule in which the masculine form takes precedence when referring to a group of people if the group includes even one man. (In Spanish, five girls are “las niñas,” but once a boy joins, they become “los niños.”)

In France, instead of using “chers étudiants,” the masculine form of “dear students,” feminists promoted the use of double forms that included a feminine spelling, such as “chers étudiants et cheres étudiantes,” said Heather Burnett, a linguist at France’s national research agency.

Today, a new wave of activists is going further. Many transgender people

want to erase grammatical gender terms altogether. Instead of using “queridos alumnos y queridas alumnas” (“dear students” in male and female form), they prefer, for example, to use “querides alumnas.”

The movement regarding language, some experts say, is part of a broader challenge to the way society perceives gender.

“With nonbinary people, language is just the tip of the iceberg,” said Rodrigo Borba, a professor of applied linguistics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. “What they are questioning on a deeper, ideological level is that gender is not connected to your genitalia and that it does not only come in pairs.”

Argentina is a surprising place for such a heated debate on gender-neutral language because the country has largely embraced transgender rights. Last year, the federal government

adopted a measure requiring that 1% of all public-sector jobs be set aside for transgender people. Those who identify as nonbinary are allowed to mark an “X” on official documents, rather than check off male or female. One of the president’s children is a nonbinary drag queen.

Even the ruling coalition — Front for All — has changed its logo to avoid using the masculine form of “todos” by replacing the second “o” with a sun.

In Buenos Aires, the city’s education minister, Soledad Acuna, said the new rule on inclusive language is not intended to be a ban. “Language itself is neither more nor less inclusive,” she said. “It all depends on how people use it.”

On the same day the rule was introduced, Acuna said, the ministry published several guides on how to be inclusive using traditional Spanish grammar. They

suggest, for example, writing “los/as estudiantes” or using neutral words like “personas” or “people.”

But the guides have done little to mollify activists and some students who said the new language decree left them feeling ostracized.

“It just makes you feel really bad,” said Agostina Fernandez Tirra, 17, who identifies as nonbinary and attends a public school in Buenos Aires. “They put us all in the same box; you are either female or male. Those of us in the middle, who are neither male nor female, it’s like they don’t even consider you.”

Some parents and teachers have cheered the rule.

Gender-neutral language “is not even that inclusive,” said Vanina Maria Casali, principal of a primary school in Palermo, an upscale Buenos Aires neighborhood. “In our school, there are kids with learning difficulties, and such language makes it even harder for them to learn.”

What influence, if any, gender-neutral language has on reading comprehension is unclear, said Florencia Salvarezza, a neuroscientist in Argentina who works on cognition, because little, if any, research has been done on the subject.

But, Salvarezza added, it is plausible that gender-neutral language could complicate learning. “There is no way to create a syllable in Spanish with the ‘x’ or the ‘@’ because they are not vowels,” she said. “That might confuse young children.”

Still, advocates and others involved in Buenos Aires’ schools believe that despite the rule, the use of gender-neutral language will continue to expand.

“You can’t prohibit something that’s already so in use,” says Alexandra Rodríguez, an after-school volunteer at a community center. “Language is something that’s always being modified.”



A protester shouts slogans Friday as army soldiers arrive to clear the site of a protest camp outside the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka. RAFIQ MAQBOOL/AP

Sri Lankan troops disperse protesters; new PM named

By Krishan Francis, Rafiq Maqbool and Rishi Lekhi
Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lankan forces violently cleared the main protest camp of demonstrators outraged by the country’s economic meltdown as the newly elected and deeply unpopular president put army troops in the streets of the capital Friday to maintain order.

Security forces were seen beating at least two journalists during the overnight raid, and the bar association said two lawyers were also assaulted — heavy-handed tactics denounced by the opposition, the U.N. and the U.S. The troops moved in even though protesters had announced they would vacate the site on Friday voluntarily.

Unbowed, the protesters vowed to continue their efforts to change their leadership. A crowd rallied for a few hours outside the main rail station, while some people also gathered as close as they could to the former demonstration site outside the presidential office.

Adding to signs that President Ranil Wickremesinghe would not address the concerns of protesters, he chose a prime minister on Friday with close ties to the political establishment that the demonstrators blame for the country’s collapse.

Sri Lankans have taken to the streets for months demanding their leaders resign over an economic crisis that has left the island nation’s 22 million people short of essentials like medicine, food and fuel. After they stormed the presidential palace and other government buildings earlier this month, then-President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, whose family has ruled Sri Lanka for most of the last two decades, fled and resigned.

Wickremesinghe, 73, who had been prime minister, was elevated to president by lawmakers this week — apparently seen as a safe pair of hands to lead Sri Lanka out of the crisis, even though he, too, was a target of the demonstrations. On Friday, he appointed as prime minister a Rajapaksa ally, Dinesh Gunawardena, who is also 73 and from a prominent political family.

After his election in a parliamentary vote this week, Wickremesinghe told lawmakers that the people “are not expecting the old politics from us.” But his recent moves signaled an inclination to maintain the status quo.

On Monday, as acting president, Wickremesinghe declared a state of emergency giving him the power to change or suspend laws and giving authorities broad power to search premises and detain people. Overnight, just hours after he was sworn in, he issued a notice under the state of emergency calling on the armed forces to maintain law and order nationwide — clearing the way for the move against the main protest camp near the presidential palace in the capital, Colombo.

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, the main lawyers’ body in the country, said the lawyers who were assaulted had gone to the protest site to offer their counsel.

In all, eight people, including some protesters, were injured, some badly, according to a government official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

New gun control law in Calif. mimics Texas’ abortion rule

By Don Thompson
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California punched back Friday against two recent landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions as Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a controversial, first-in-the-nation gun control law patterned after a Texas anti-abortion law.

His action comes one month after conservative justices overturned women’s constitutional right to abortions and undermined gun control laws in states including California.

Newsom stitched the two hot-button topics together in approving a law allowing people to sue anyone who imports, distributes, manufactures or sells illegal assault-style weapons, .50-caliber rifles, guns without serial numbers or parts that can be used to build firearms that are banned in California.

They would be awarded at least \$10,000 in civil damages for each weapon, plus attorneys’ fees.

“While the Supreme Court rolls back reasonable gun safety measures, California continues adding new ways to protect the lives of our kids,” Newsom said in a statement released before he signed the bill. “California will use every tool at its disposal to save lives, especially in the face of an increasingly extreme Supreme Court.”

Lawmakers patterned the bill, at Newsom’s request, after a Texas law allowing citizens to sue anyone who provides or assists in providing an abortion.

The U.S. Supreme Court gave preliminary approval to the Texas law, but California’s law will automatically be invalidated if the Texas law is eventually ruled unconstitutional.

Newsom placed \$30,000 worth of full-page advertisements in three Texas



California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks Friday in Santa Monica. He signed a gun control measure that is patterned after the anti-abortion law currently in place in Texas. JAE C. HONG/AP

newspapers Friday criticizing what he said is Gov. Greg Abbott’s hypocrisy on gun safety.

The ads parrot a comment by Abbott about children’s right to life but substitute “gun violence” where he said “abortion.”

“Governor Newsom should focus on all the jobs and businesses that are leaving California and coming to Texas,” Abbott spokeswoman Renae Eze responded.

It’s a similar tactic to the television ad that Newsom, a Democrat running for reelection, recently aired in Florida targeting Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Newsom has repeatedly denied presidential aspirations even while stoking that speculation.

Opponents of the California bill — including an unusual combination of gun owners’ advocates and the American Civil Liberties Union — have criticized creating what they said amounts to a bounty system to encourage such lawsuits.

The ACLU called California’s law “an attack on the constitution” for deliberately trying to sidestep judicial review by empowering enforcement by citizens and not governments, and for undermining due process rights.

“It’s a crappy decision, but the reality is that as long as it is the law, let’s make benefit of it by virtue of saving lives, trying to save lives, in California,” the bill’s author, Democratic state Sen. Robert Hertzberg, said while defending the bill in an interview. “It’s all about these two big issues that are facing us. And you can’t have a double standard. You can’t have one standard for guns and another standard for women’s reproductive health. It’s not right.”

Gun control advocacy organizations Moms Demand Action and affiliated Students Demand Action backed the bill’s potential to combat untraceable “ghost guns.”

Aside from the merits of the bill, opponents say it is written to discourage any legal challenges to California’s myriad gun regulations by requiring plaintiffs or lawyers to pay attorneys’ fees if they lose the lawsuit.

That portion of the law “is intended to make it impossible to file a Second Amendment challenge to an unconstitutional gun control law. That is itself unconstitutional,” said Chuck Michel, president of the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

The New York Times contributed.

WORLD & NATION

Graft concerns in Ukraine resurface

Worries arise about country's suitability to receive US aid

By Matthew Lee and Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's dismissal of senior officials is casting an inconvenient light on an issue that the Biden administration has largely ignored since the outbreak of war with Russia: Ukraine's history of rampant corruption and shaky governance.

As it presses ahead with providing tens of billions of dollars in military, economic and direct financial support aid to Ukraine and encourages its allies to do the same, the Biden administration is now once again grappling with long-standing worries about Ukraine's suitability as a recipient of massive infusions of American aid.

Those issues, which date back decades and were not an insignificant part of former President Donald Trump's first impeachment, had been largely pushed to the back burner in the immediate run-up to Russia's invasion on Feb. 24 and during the first months of the conflict as the U.S. and its partners rallied to Ukraine's defense.

But Zelenskyy's recent firings of his top prosecutor, intelligence chief and other senior officials have resurfaced those concerns and may have inadvertently given fresh attention to allegations of high-level corruption in Kyiv made by one outspoken U.S. lawmaker.

It's a delicate issue for the Biden administration. With billions in aid flowing to Ukraine, the White House continues to make the case for supporting Zelenskyy's government to an American public increasingly focused on domestic issues like high gas prices and inflation. High-profile supporters of



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy recently dismissed his top prosecutor, intelligence chief and other officials. That's brought back concerns about Ukraine's history of corruption and shaky governance. **UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE**

Ukraine in both parties also want to avoid a backlash that could make it more difficult to pass future aid packages.

U.S. officials are quick to say that Zelenskyy is well within his right to appoint whomever he wants to senior positions, including the prosecutor general, and remove anyone who he sees as collaborating with Russia.

Yet even as Russian troops were massing near the Ukrainian border last fall, the Biden administration was pushing Zelenskyy to do more to act on corruption — a perennial U.S. demand going back to Ukraine's early days of independence.

"In all of our relationships, and including in this relationship, we invest not in personalities; we invest in institutions, and, of course, President Zelenskyy has

spoken to his rationale for making these personnel shifts," State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters on Monday.

Price declined to comment further on Zelenskyy's reasoning for the dismissals or address the specifics but said there was no question that Russia has been trying to interfere in Ukraine.

"Moscow has long sought to subvert, to destabilize the Ukrainian government," Price said. "Ever since Ukraine chose the path of democracy and a Western orientation this has been something that Moscow has sought to subvert."

Still, in October and then again in December 2021, as the U.S. and others were warning of the increasing potential for a Russian

invasion, the Biden administration was calling out Zelenskyy's government for inaction on corruption that had little or nothing to do with Russia.

"The EU and the U.S. are greatly disappointed by unexplained and unjustifiable delays in the selection of the Head of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Office, a crucial body in the fight against high-level corruption," the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv said on Oct. 9.

"We urge the selection commission to resume its work without further delays. Failure to move forward in the selection process undermines the work of anti-corruption agencies, established by Ukraine and its international partners," it said.

That special prosecutor was finally chosen in late December but was never actually appointed to the position. Although there are indications the appointment will happen soon, the dismissal of the prosecutor general could complicate the matter.

The administration and high-profile lawmakers have avoided public criticism of Ukraine since Russia invaded in February. The U.S. has ramped up the weapons and intelligence it's providing to Ukraine despite early concerns about Russia's penetration of the Ukrainian government and existing concerns about corruption.

A Ukrainian-born congresswoman who came to prominence early in the war recently broke that

unofficial silence.

Rep. Victoria Spartz, a first-term Republican from Indiana, has made half a dozen visits to Ukraine since the war began. And she was invited to the White House in May and received a pen used by President Joe Biden to sign an aid package for Ukraine even after she angrily criticized Biden for not doing more to help.

But in recent weeks, Spartz has accused Zelenskyy of "playing politics" and alleged his top aide Andriy Yermak had sabotaged Ukraine's defense against Russia.

She's also repeatedly called on Ukraine to name the anti-corruption prosecutor, blaming Yermak for the delay.

Ukrainian officials have hit back. A statement from Ukraine's Foreign Ministry accused Spartz of spreading "Russian propaganda" and warned her to "stop trying to earn extra political capital on baseless speculation."

U.S. officials gave Spartz a classified briefing last week in hopes of addressing her concerns and encouraging her to limit her public criticism. She declined to discuss the briefing afterward but told The Associated Press that "healthy dialogue and deliberation is good for Congress."

Rep. Jason Crow, a Colorado Democrat who sits on the House Armed Services and Intelligence committees, said he had seen no evidence to support allegations that Zelenskyy's inner circle was trying to help Russia. But as the war continues, part of the long-term American strategy in Ukraine will have to include addressing waste and mismanagement of resources, he said.

"There is no war in the history of the world that is immune from corruption and people trying to take advantage of it," Crow said. "If there are concerns raised, we will address them."

Russian shelling keeps Kharkiv on the edge

Bombardment on daily basis prevents any return to normal

By Jane Arraf and Oleksandr Chubko
The New York Times

KHARKIV, Ukraine — Alina Titova fell to her knees on the steps of the central railway station at her first glimpse of her home city after arriving back on the train.

"I want to kiss these steps," Titova, 35, told the two friends who had come to meet her. It was her first trip back to Kharkiv since she left the besieged city in March, ending up in Germany with her three young children.

But Titova was staying only long enough to take care of some business matters and to try to persuade her parents to leave their nearby village before winter set in.

"Everyone wants to return to Kharkiv," she said. "If it's safe to return we would walk on foot from Germany. But it's not safe for the kids yet."

Just 25 miles from the Russian border, Kharkiv is Ukraine's second-biggest city and has been one of the hardest hit in the war. But despite relentless bombardment, Ukrainian forces repelled Russian troops trying to capture the city, and eventually pushed many of them out of the northern suburbs and back into Russia — a limited but meaningful success that offered the promise of a respite for Kharkiv's beleaguered residents.

The relief was ephemeral. Though Russian troops pulled back, the attacks never stopped. Airstrikes have devastated the city's infrastructure, and rockets and artillery still slam into the city and surrounding suburbs every night.

Military analysts have said the attacks are a way to force Ukraine to keep troops in the north, preventing them from joining the larger fight in the



Viktoriya Ponomarenko, right, waits for customers on July 16 at a damaged market in Kharkiv, Ukraine. The second-biggest city in the country sees an average of four to five Russian airstrikes nightly, a regional governor said. **EMILE DUCKE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

eastern Donbas region. But in June, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was gathering forces to attack Kharkiv again. And the city is bracing for it.

"We know that they did not abandon the idea of capturing Kharkiv city," said Oleh Synyehubov, the regional governor.

Synyehubov, who is also head of the regional military administration, said that on average four or five airstrikes hit Kharkiv every night, many of them targeting schools and colleges.

Because Russian forces have been pushed back, Synyehubov said, most attacks now were using rockets with a 40-mile range.

"They are trying to prevent people from sending their children to school in September," the governor said, adding that he saw the continued bombardment as an attempt by Russia to gain leverage in any potential

negotiations.

Half of Kharkiv's prewar population of 1.8 million has left and 90% of businesses are closed, according to city officials. The normally vibrant center of the city, a cultural hub of eastern Ukraine, is largely deserted. There are few cars on the wide streets where largely empty trolley cars rumble along the tracks.

On a recent morning, a man in a motorized wheelchair with a large Ukrainian flag flying behind him made his way down the middle of an empty street, between buildings with boards in the windows to replace shattered glass.

Next to a heavily damaged bank building, two customers walked into a shawarma shop — one of the few businesses open in the area.

Valeria Golovkina said her Turkish husband and his brother had reopened the Ala Cafe two days earlier after replacing broken

equipment and repairing water damage from the shelling.

"We need to work — what else can we do?" said Golovkina, 42, who left for Istanbul in March with her husband. When they returned in June, she said, all the windows had shattered and the ceiling had collapsed onto the floor.

"At first when things calmed down a lot of people returned but now it's anxious again in Kharkiv," she said.

She said a lot of Kharkiv residents who left after the invasion had returned because their money ran out.

Most of those who remain are either city workers — the city is now Kharkiv's biggest employer — those too poor to leave, or young people determined to stick it out in the city's edgy wartime half-life. There are almost no children.

Kharkiv's mayor, Ihor Terekhov, said 109 of the

city's approximately 200 schools had been damaged in the strikes.

He also said the city was now planning for a third year of online classes starting in September.

"You understand that no parent will let their children go to school while they are being bombed," Terekhov said.

The mayor said 4,500 buildings had been heavily damaged or destroyed, including a major scientific library and Kharkiv's main art museum. About 50,000 apartments in more than 400 buildings are now unrepairable.

In June, Terekhov said, during a lull in the fighting, up to 5,000 residents a day were returning. The city restarted bus, streetcar and metro service, all free of charge for the many residents with no money and no jobs.

Even now, he said, while some residents continued

to leave, there were still more returning, despite the threat of a renewed Russian assault.

"For Kharkiv residents, Kharkiv is a nationality," he said. "Because Kharkiv people cannot imagine life without their city."

"Our main task now is to survive the winter," he added, noting that the city was trying to replace 120 miles of damaged gas pipelines used to fuel its buildings' heating systems.

Despite the danger, Kharkiv has a small but thriving bar scene, full of patrons who consider it a badge of honor to stay in the city despite the danger.

"Half the people don't have jobs now so the only thing they can do is go out in the evening to chat with people, to meet with friends and somehow release the tension," said Vlad Pyvovar, who was serving up red plastic cups of cherry liqueur at the Drunken Cherry bar.

Customers spilled out of the tiny bar into the street, sitting on the wall of a subway entrance and listening to live music. Occasionally, an explosion thudded in the distance — too far away for most people to tell whether it was incoming or outgoing fire.

"Kharkiv people got used to it and those who couldn't get used to it left," said one of the customers, Iryna Holub, 21.

Outside another bar called DAF, short for "Drunk as" followed by an expletive, an olive green military van raced by with sirens sounding.

Inside, a couple of customers were getting ready to leave before the mandated 9 p.m. closing time.

"A lot of my regular customers come here and see we are open and they say 'Sorry I have no money now but maybe see you later,'" said the bartender, Evheniy Moskalenko, 27. "Sometimes I say, 'Let's just sit here and talk a little.'"

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Supreme Court move allows Jackson part in race admissions case

From news services

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Friday took a step that will allow new Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the first Black woman on the court, to take part in a case that could lead to the end of the use of race in college admissions.

Jackson, who joined the court June 30 following the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer, had pledged during her confirmation hearing to sit out the case involving Harvard's admissions policy because she was a member of the school's board.

The Harvard dispute had been joined to a similar lawsuit involving the University of North Carolina. The court split the case in two, allowing Jackson to hear arguments and vote in the North Carolina case. Harvard is a private institution, while UNC is a public university.

Jackson's participation seems unlikely to make much difference in the outcome on a court with a 6-3 conservative majority that is skeptical of the role of race in education, voting and other areas.

Arguments over one of the new term's most highly anticipated issues probably will take place in November or December, but no date has been announced yet.

Jackson was a member of Harvard's Board of Overseers from 2016 until the spring. It is made up of alumni and is one of Harvard's two governing bodies. She is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Three other justices also got their law degrees from Harvard: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch. Roberts also was a Harvard undergraduate and Kagan

was the law school dean for a time. But none of the other justices has any current or recent role with the university.

Federal law requires all judges to recuse from cases in which their "impartiality might reasonably be questioned," including close ties to a party, a financial interest in the outcome or participation at an earlier stage of the case.

Iowa state park shooting: Three family members were shot to death Friday morning while camping in a state park in eastern Iowa, and the suspected gunman died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

Officers responded to reports of the shooting at the Maquoketa Caves State Park Campground before 6:30 a.m., the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation said in a statement. Officers found three people fatally shot in a tent at the campground, division assistant director Mitch Mortvedt said.

Officials immediately evacuated everyone from the park, a children's summer camp on the grounds and the campground. Using a plane to help search the area, law enforcement later found 23-year-old Anthony Sherwin dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in a wooded area of the park. Sherwin came from Nebraska, and investigators don't believe he had any prior relationship with the victims, Mortvedt said.

The three victims were related, Mortvedt said. He did not provide their names or ages, explain how they were related or provide a motive for the killings.

NKorea media ban: South Korea plans to lift its decadeslong ban on public access to North Korean



Vehicles line up Thursday to wait for ferries at the Port of Dover in Folkestone, England. Many British families are embarking on getaways at the start of school vacations, but some waited hours for border checks at the English Channel port, where traffic snarled roads for miles. Port authorities said a lack of French border officials caused the delays. **GARETH FULLER/PA IMAGES**

television, newspapers and other media as part of its efforts to promote mutual understanding between the rivals, officials said Friday, despite animosities over the North's recent missile tests.

Divided along the world's most heavily fortified border since 1948, the two Koreas prohibit their citizens from visiting each other's territory and exchanging phone calls, emails and letters, and they block access to each other's websites and TV stations.

Officials at South Korea's Unification Ministry said South Korea will start by allowing access to North Korean broadcasts to try to encourage North Korea to take similar steps. The ministry refused to provide further details, saying the plans are still being discussed with relevant authorities in South Korea.

Libya militia clashes: Clashes between competing militias in Libya's capital on Friday killed at least 13

people, despite calls for calm after violence first broke out the previous night, a spokesman for Tripoli's emergency services said.

It was the latest escalation to threaten the relative peace after nearly a decade of civil war in Libya, where two rival sets of authorities are locked in a political stalemate. The divisions have sparked several incidents of violence in Tripoli in recent months, but most have been over in a matter of hours.

According to the emergency services spokesman, among those killed since the fighting started late Thursday were three civilians from the area and a 12-year-old child. He also said 30 people had been wounded.

Prince Harry security: Prince Harry can take the British government to court over his security arrangements in the U.K., a judge in London ruled Friday.

Harry and his wife, Meghan, lost publicly funded U.K. police protection when

they stepped down as senior working royals and moved to North America in 2020. The prince wants to pay personally for police security when he comes to Britain, and is challenging the government's refusal to permit it.

Judge Jonathan Swift ruled Friday that the case can go to a full hearing at the High Court in London. He refused some aspects of the challenge but said some grounds "give rise to an arguable case" that deserves a hearing.

Accused attacker dead: A West Virginia man charged with trying to kill his sister — who recently awakened from a two-year coma and identified him as her attacker — has died.

Daniel Palmer III had long been considered the key suspect in the brutal attack that left his sister comatose two years ago.

Able to speak only a word at a time after coming out of a coma, Wanda Palmer identified her brother, with

whom she had a violent past, as her attacker. Daniel Palmer was arrested July 15.

Less than a week later, he was dead, likely bringing a close to a highly unusual case in which the investigation was stalled by a lack of evidence.

Daniel Palmer was pronounced dead Thursday at a Charleston hospital, a day after he was taken there following an evaluation by jail medical staff, the state Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Division of Corrections, said in a news release.

The statement didn't indicate a cause of death and a spokeswoman for Department of Health and Human Resources said state law only allows the agency to release autopsy information to relatives and law enforcement.

Palmer, 55, of Cottageville, was uncooperative while in custody and during booking procedures at the South Central Regional Jail, the statement said.

Bannon

from Page 1

sentencing for October, but David Schoen, a lawyer for Bannon, said they would appeal the guilty verdict.

Bannon's conviction was the latest turn in a tumultuous political career that over the years saw him take a leading role in bringing together right-wing media, presidential politics and America First-style populism. He helped found the website Breitbart News, which he once described as a "platform for the alt-right," a loosely affiliated collection of racists, misogynists and Islamophobes that rose to prominence around the time of Trump's first campaign.

Beginning in 2016, Bannon served as the campaign's chief architect, helping Trump craft his divisive, populist message. He was brought into the White House after Trump's victory to work as a strategist and senior counselor to the president but lasted only seven months before returning to Breitbart.

In August 2020, Bannon was arrested on the \$35 million, 150-foot yacht belonging to a business associate, fugitive Chinese billionaire Guo Wengui. Federal prosecutors in New York accused him of defrauding donors to a private fundraising effort called We Build the Wall, which was intended to bolster Trump's signature initiative along the Mexican



Steve Bannon leaves a federal court after he was found guilty Friday of criminal contempt of Congress. **JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP**

border.

Trump pardoned Bannon in his final hours in office.

After Trump's defeat in the 2020 election, Bannon once again came to his aid. He worked with Peter Navarro, a White House adviser, to devise a strategy to keep the president in office that they called the "Green Bay Sweep." The

plan called for Republican members of the House and Senate to block the counting of Electoral College votes on Jan. 6, 2021, so lawmakers in key swing states could decertify the vote results in their states and hand Trump a victory.

Bannon's conviction was the first of a close aide to Trump to result from one of

the chief investigations into the Capitol attack.

Bannon, who left the White House in 2017, was indicted in November. Contempt of Congress is a misdemeanor, with each count punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and a minimum of 30 days and a maximum of 12 months in prison.

At the time, the filing of

charges against him was widely seen as proof that the Justice Department could take an aggressive stance against some of Trump's top allies as the House seeks to develop a fuller picture of the actions of the former president and his inner circle before and during the attack.

Despite the legal wranglings that preceded his trial,

Bannon's guilt or innocence ultimately turned on one issue: whether he had defied the House committee by flouting its subpoena. "This case is not complicated, but it is important," Molly Gaston, a federal prosecutor, said in a closing statement Friday.

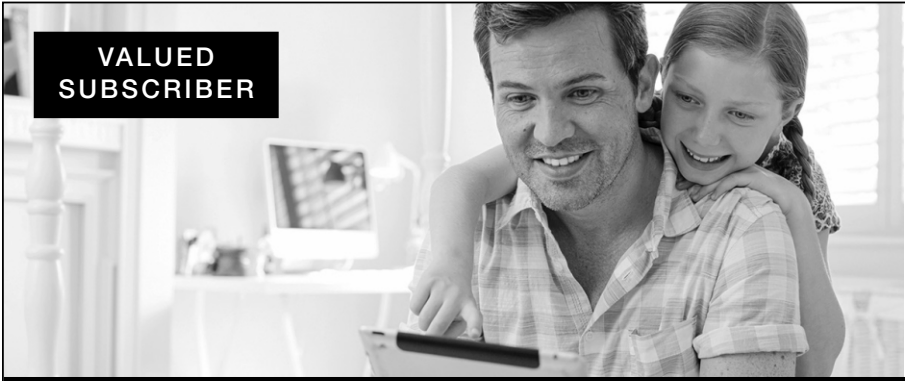
Gaston told the jury that the House committee had wanted to ask Bannon about his presence at the Willard Hotel before the Capitol attack, where plans to overturn the election were discussed, and about his statement the day before the assault that "all hell" was going to break loose Jan. 6.

Like many defendants, Bannon did not mount a defense case for the jury, deciding instead to rely on cross-examining the prosecution's two witnesses: a lawyer for the committee and an FBI agent who had worked on the case.

Testimony in the trial ended Wednesday as the prosecution rested its case against Bannon, arguing that he had willfully ignored the subpoena for both records and testimony even after being warned that he could face criminal charges.

Bannon's lawyers countered that the deadlines set by the committee to receive their client's testimony and documents were flexible.

Before the trial began, Bannon reversed course and offered to testify before the Jan. 6 committee. But prosecutors have portrayed that move as a last-ditch attempt to avoid the charges.



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CONNECTICUT

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Vacant school in Berlin gets fresh start

After long run as Mooreland Hills, new Prism Academy ready to serve students with autism

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Vacant since 2019 when it completed nearly nine decades as a private day school, the Mooreland Hills School in Berlin now has a new life as the Prism Academy for students with autism.

Nearly 20 youngsters ages 3 to 14 will be learning this fall at the school on Lincoln Street in the town's Kensington section.

Prism, which operates centers in Farmington and Guilford for children age 6 and younger, began

operating classes for 3- to 14-year-olds because of a unique demand, founder and Chief Executive Officer Rachael Coburn said at a ceremonial opening on Friday.

"When we began this school, it was from an urgent need in the pandemic. Children with autism aren't able to access education through online learning, so we said 'come to us,'" Coburn said. "And as they say, we built this plane while we were flying it."

The school started off in a couple of rooms in a different facility, but Coburn and her staff

wanted a location better suited to the purpose. They learned the Mooreland School was available after shutting down in mid-2019.

Mooreland Hill and its 6.6-acre campus had served 89 years as a private day school, most recently serving kindergartners to ninth graders.

"We were immediately taken in by its charm, utility, location. Our affection for this school has grown every moment because of the neighbors, the community and the support we have here," she told an audience of community leaders, Town Manager Arosha Jayawickrema, state Rep. Donna Veach and

Turn to Prism, Page 2



Twin sisters Rebecca Giammatti, left, chief clinical officer, and Rachael Coburn, CEO, opened Prism Academy on Friday. DOUGLAS HOOK/HARTFORD COURANT

Time's running out for rebate

Half of those eligible haven't yet claimed \$250/child tax relief

By Keith M. Phaneuf
CT Mirror

A \$250-per-child state tax rebate for as many as 350,000 poor and middle class families is the latest Connecticut pandemic relief plan struggling to hit its mark.

With less than two weeks before the program's July 31 deadline, only about half of the estimated, eligible households have applied for assistance, according to the state Department of Revenue Services. Through mid-afternoon Tuesday, the department had received 165,621 applications from families — on behalf of 258,819 children.

But program advocates are confident applications will surge in the final two weeks as they pledge to intensify outreach efforts.

"We are doing whatever we can ... to make sure people know they're eligible for this, and that they have to sign up," said Rep. Sean Scanlon, D-Guilford, co-chairman of the legislature's Finance Committee. "I think it's really just about leaving no stone unturned."

Scanlon has been pushing for the past two years for a yearly state income tax break for working families with kids.

The full legislature and Gov. Ned Lamont settled instead on a one-time child tax rebate of \$250 per child — up to a maximum of \$750 per household. Lamont also said he would prioritize converting the rebate into an ongoing credit during the regular 2023 General Assembly session if state finances remain strong at that point.

"We are quickly approaching the July 31 deadline to apply for this state tax rebate, and we strongly encourage all families

Turn to Rebate, Page 2



Will Schoen, from left, Will O'Connell and Mauricio Vega-Estades work on a car in West Hartford. DOUGLAS HOOK PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

THESE TEENS ARE CLEANING UP

Student entrepreneurs have 'struck gold' with mobile car wash service

By Pam McLoughlin
Hartford Courant

Two teen entrepreneurs from West Hartford are cleaning up in more ways than one with a business that brings a full car washing service right to the driveway of a customer's home.

WeHa Washes, co-founded in summer 2020 at the height of the pandemic and now in its third summer, has traveled to wash, clean, and sometimes wax 300 vehicles — and counting.

It was intended to be a pandemic-centric business when conceived by then-Hall High School rising seniors Will Schoen and Kallen Colbert, who figured people were working from home and vehicles were just sitting in driveways.

But as it turns out, taking the car, SUV or minivan to be washed isn't a favorite activity in any era.

Turn to Car wash, Page 2



Vega-Estades is the newest member of the team at WeHa Washes, which charges \$80 for smaller cars and \$100 for larger vehicles.

'A ray of sunshine to everyone'

Memorial butterfly garden honors Wethersfield teacher who died from cancer last year at 33

By Stephen Underwood
Hartford Courant

"Where the sun shines, love grows" is the motto for the Laura's Garden Foundation, a nonprofit developed to honor the legacy of a local Wethersfield woman who died of complications from cancer last year. The foundation held a groundbreaking ceremony for a memorial butterfly garden at Standish Park in Old Wethersfield on Thursday.

Laura Kirsche Hart, 33, was

a mom, wife, daughter, sister and beloved elementary-school teacher in Glastonbury, where she taught for nearly a decade.

"My sister was a ray of sunshine to everyone who knew her," said Laura's brother, Steve Kirsche Jr. "That might sound trite but in her case that couldn't be more true. She loved the outdoors so a butterfly came to symbolize who she was through her beauty, love of nature and joy she brought others."

Turn to Garden, Page 3



The new memorial butterfly garden is meant to be a "gathering place for all visitors to Old Wethersfield."

JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DominGO! postponed due to heat advisory

Weekend temps expected to top 90 in Hartford

Staff report

HARTFORD — Due to the heat advisory in effect this weekend, the city will rescheduling the DominGO! Hartford event on Park Street to Sunday, Sept. 25, Mayor Luke Bronin said.

"With forecasts above 90 degrees on Sunday, along with oppressive humidity and a heat index that could reach triple digits, we will be postponing our DominGO! open-streets festival on Park Street, out of an abundance

of caution and for the safety of our residents," Bronin said.

"I want to thank everyone who contributed to planning for this Sunday's festivities, from the team at Hartford HealthCare to our partners, volunteers, and City team," he said. "We encourage our residents to keep themselves and their family hydrated and cool this weekend. We look forward to welcoming bikers, runners, and people of all ages back to Park

Turn to Postponed, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Police: Man shot fake gun at motorist

By Mike Mavredakis
Hartford Courant

The Connecticut State Police arrested a North Haven man for shooting pellets from a fake gun at another driver while driving on Interstate 91 in Cromwell on Wednesday. The state police received a 911 call from a driver traveling on I-91 north reporting that another motorist shot orange pellets at them. The driver told police they were hit in the face multiple times with the pellets but were not injured. The caller described the car as a gray Toyota Prius and was able to provide 911 operators with a license plate number, police said. The caller also provided a description of the person allegedly driving the Prius.

An officer from the CT Department of Motor Vehicles saw the Prius matching the description from the caller on I-91 near Hartford and pulled the car over. The DMV officer detained the driver until state police arrived, police said.

A facsimile weapon was observed on the front passenger seat of the Prius, police said.

The driver was identified as Kenrick Amaker, 31, of North Haven. He was arrested and charged with illegal possession of a weapon in a motor vehicle, second-degree threatening, reckless endangerment, third-degree assault, breach of peace, illegal operation of a motor vehicle without minimum insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and improper use registration.

He was released on a \$5,000 bond and is scheduled to appear in Middletown Superior Court on Aug. 22.

Postponed

from Page 1

Street on Sept. 25 to enjoy open, car-free public spaces.”

“Safety is a core value at Hartford HealthCare. We are grateful for our partnership with the city and the decision to ensure the safety of our community by canceling this weekend’s event. Thank you to all of our Hartford Hospital colleagues, local businesses, and community organizations who continue to support this great event,” Hartford Hospital President Bimal Patel said, in a statement

Hartford will continue to operate cooling centers this weekend, and the Hartford Fire Department will hand out water to residents throughout the city. Locations and hours are:

Downtown Library
500 Main St., Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

North End Senior Center
80 Coventry St., Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

South End Wellness Senior Center
830 Maple Ave., Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Car wash

from Page 1

“They realized it saved a lot of time, energy and effort,” Schoen said. “This year is by far the best.”

The service is between \$70-\$120 for each vehicle depending on the size.

“It was honestly satisfying the first time I took a completely dirty car and made it sparkle,” said Schoen, now a student at Lehigh University studying Integrated Business and Engineering.

It all started when Schoen and Colbert, both now 19, were trying to come up with an innovative idea for making summer cash, other than the usual jobs as camp counselor or lifeguard.

“Our first idea was that people were working from home and their cars were sitting there,” he said.

So they built a business model that took care of everything for washing a vehicle — as long as they were provided an electrical outlet and spigot.

Schoen and his crew will provide the rest — a hose, vacuum, interior/exterior cleaning supplies, sprays and microfiber towels.

The two didn’t have Facebook

accounts yet, so Colbert’s mom posted on her account and in five days they had 30 jobs.

“We kind of knew we had struck gold. We thought, ‘We can turn this into something,’” Schoen said.

As it would turn out, the business not only remained in demand, but grew as the shutdowns, quarantines and urgency of the pandemic lessened.

WeHa Washes customer Jennifer Sherman said, “my car is always cleaner than when I use the other more established businesses while they are away at college.”

“I love that they had the entrepreneurial spirit during COVID and made a successful business. Great outcome for tough times,” Sherman said. “They are also really sweet to our lab Bailey who likes to watch them.”

Customer Gretchen Levitz, who calls WeHa Washes a “concierge business” said the teens did “a great job” on the family’s vehicles the last two summers.

“These are hard-working entrepreneurs who don’t mind hard work. They are motivated, very responsible, take pride in their work and have really developed quite a loyal following,” she said.

“It’s luxury without the price

tag,” Levitz said. “There is no ego, little overhead and just lots of pure hard work and integrity. They literally beam with pride when they finish a job.”

This summer, the crew is working from noon to 8 p.m. five days a week to keep up with demand. They are based in West Hartford but have traveled to vehicles in Farmington, Avon, Simsbury and beyond.

They will travel up to 30 minutes away, constrained only by having enough time to make the next appointment.

People with young children especially appreciate the convenience, Schoen discovered, because they don’t have to wait at a car wash 2½ hours or get a ride home.

“It’s a great feeling when I see someone with a big smile, kids climbing all over them,” after the job is done.

Co-founder Colbert is in Florida studying at Universal Technical Institute in Florida and not working it this summer. He plans to continue the business when he’s back in West Hartford.

“It started with just a few washes a week and all by word of mouth and Facebook it took off. We were booked week after week every day working really hard,” Colbert said.

Will O’Connell, who is studying entrepreneurship at Hofstra University, is working full-time alongside Schoen this summer.

“I think people like how convenient the service is being a delivery service. They don’t have to bring their car to a location and work that in with their schedule, they just get to wait and relax at home while we come and wash their car,” he said.

While the business started as a casual way to make a few bucks, Schoen said it’s more focused and organized now as he puts the accounting and skills he’s used in college to use.

Even though he’s likely to go into a different type of entrepreneurship after college, Schoen sees the potential for WeHa Washes to be self-sustaining if they can implement a self-service scheduling system.

He said some car wash companies offer mobile service, but the work isn’t nearly as detailed. It takes about 2 hours, 15 minutes to finish a car and the crew is trained to “see the things they missed,” he said.

“We kind of like the freedom of being entrepreneurs,” Schoen said. “I feel a little spoiled never having had a boss.”



Prism Academy, a school for children with autism in Berlin, formerly was the Mooreland Hill School, a small private day school that closed in 2019 after 89 years.



Emmett Ravis, senior behavioral technician at Prism Academy, said each time he sees an improvement in the children he works with it brings an intense joy. DOUGLAS HOOK PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT

Prism

from Page 1

others.

“One of the things we experience as an approved private school is students whose needs haven’t been met in their public schools, so this is a continuum of services,” said John Molteni, clinical director at Prism Academy. “Our first goal is always to make sure students feel comfortable being here, that they want to be here, that they transition in the building well.”

“Then we develop skills from there. There are lots of skills to work on: academics, communication, social and emotional development. We take a very individualized approach,” Molteni said.

Administrators hope to eventually serve as many as 50 youngsters. For now, Prism Academy has 19 registered; they come from 14 different Connecticut communities, all within an hour’s drive of Berlin, said Catherine Riker, education director.

“The classrooms are meant to be

analogous to what students would see in a public school,” Molteni said. “Our goal is to develop skills that potentially allow those students to go back to their public schools.

“Our goal is not to keep kids here forever — it’s where kids can best be served at the time and then have them go back,” Molteni said.

Town Economic Development Chris Edge said helping to arrange a new use for Mooreland Hill was an especially rewarding accomplishment.

“As everyone knows this has been the home of a school for many years. The great news is it’s going to be a school again for many many more years,” Edge said.

“If you look around Connecticut, schools have a couple of different futures: They become apartments, they get knocked down, they sit there and nothing happens,” Edge said. “Because of the location and the history here, and because it is part of the neighborhood, there couldn’t be a better fit than the Prism Academy being here. They want to help families that literally could be right down the block.”

Rebate

from Page 1

who’ve claimed at least one dependent on their 2021 federal income tax returns to submit their applications to the Department of Revenue Services as soon as possible so that they can take advantage of this opportunity,” Lamont spokesman David Bednarz said.

Republicans have accused Lamont and his fellow Democrats in the legislature’s majority of using the rebates as a political stunt to boost their campaigns this fall. Lamont is seeking a second term as governor, and Scanlon is running for state comptroller.

The rebate is available for single parents who earned \$100,000 or less and for couples who make \$200,000 or less. Households must file a 2021 federal income tax return to receive the benefit.

When the program launched in June, state officials estimated 350,000 households were eligible. But that projection was based on 2020 income tax data, Reve-

nue Services Commissioner Mark Boughton said Tuesday, adding that revised projections are closer to 300,000.

The child tax rebate is supposed to deliver \$125 million to working families. Based on applications received to date, it would deliver \$64.7 million.

It’s also not the first state relief program to run into trouble getting dollars out the door.

Connecticut launched a \$34 million program in January to replace lost wages and cover medical expenses for frontline workers who caught COVID.

But as of early July, slightly more than \$361,100 or 1.1% of the program funds had been awarded amidst complaints of a low profile and a complicated application process.

Lamont and his fellow Democrats in the legislature’s majority say their overall tax relief plan, which would top \$660 million — if all programs run as projected — is one of the largest in state history.

Besides the child tax rebate, it also includes: one-time payments

of federal aid to the working poor; a suspension of the 25-cents-per-gallon retail gasoline tax until Dec. 1; an ongoing expansion of the property tax credit within the state income tax — from \$200 to \$300; and a statewide freeze on car taxes at 32.46 mills.

Republicans counter it is far too little given the context. The national inflation rate, which now exceeds 9%, is at a 40-year-high. And for the fiscal year that just wrapped on June 30, preliminary numbers show the state finished with an unprecedented surplus of around \$4 billion.

The GOP favored a \$1.2 billion relief plan that also included a state income tax rate cut for the middle class; a holiday on diesel fuel taxes; a temporary reduction of the sales tax from 6.35% to 5.99% in 2022; and suspension of the 1% surcharge on restaurant meals for the rest of the calendar year.

“I’m saddened that the administration hasn’t done a good enough job rolling out this assistance we all supported,” Senate Minority Leader Kevin Kelly, R-Stratford, said Wednesday. “We are always

in favor of reducing the tax burden on Connecticut families. Our Better Way proposal offered a much wider range of immediate tax relief for families, seniors, and job creators across Connecticut.”

But Boughton noted that the state’s periodic tax amnesty programs — which also require filers to apply to receive assistance — traditionally see a last-minute surge in participation. The child tax rebate program could follow this same pattern.

“We’re seeing 1,500 to 2,000 [applications] per day,” he added. “We’re going to push right up to the July 31 cut-off.”

The Department of Revenue Services’ website enables households to apply online at https://portal.ct.gov/DRS/Credit-Programs/Child-Tax-Rebate/Overview. Applicants also can call the DRS at 860-297-5962.

Congress enhanced the federal child tax credit last year in response to the economic pain of the coronavirus pandemic, sending relief directly to many families’ bank accounts — with no immediate

application process.

But that program was piggy-backing off of an established, ongoing child tax credit program within the federal income tax system. Congress opted to rely on already existing data to identify households that had received the credit in the past and send them the enhanced aid.

United Way has created information kits not only to help households apply for the grant, but also to enable businesses to assist their employees in learning more about the relief program. Bates said residents can learn more about the program by calling the United Way’s 2-1-1 infoline.

Both Scanlon and Bates said Connecticut could have looked into an application-free option when state officials ordered the rebate in May. But assembling that data might have delayed relief efforts. The state hopes to send rebate checks to approved applicants starting in August.

Still, both Scanlon and Bates said the state should consider this option the next time to maximize the number of households that benefit.

CONNECTICUT

Bipartisan bill aims to avert repeat of Jan. 6

Fearing 2024 election threats, Murphy helped craft legislation reforming Electoral Count Act

By Lisa Hagen
CT Mirror

U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy believes attempts to overturn the 2024 presidential election will be more “organized” and “sophisticated” than they were in 2020, which is why he joined the bipartisan effort to ensure a more peaceful transfer of power between presidents.

Murphy is one of 16 senators who worked together to craft compromise legislation reforming the centuries-old Electoral Count Act, aimed at preventing future interference in certifying election results.

In an interview, Murphy said he is hopeful there will be enough Republican support in the Senate to pass the compromise bill.

The two bills, which were introduced Wednesday, cover a wide range of protections aiming to make it more difficult to challenge electors and clarify the role of the vice president during the congressional certification of the results — two issues that arose following the 2020 election when former President Donald Trump and his allies pressured Vice President Mike Pence to reject the results showing a Joe Biden victory.

Those efforts ultimately failed, but not before a mob of Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, putting the vice president and lawmakers in danger. A House select committee is currently

investigating the attack, what led up to it and the aftermath, and is holding its eighth public hearing on Thursday night.

Murphy said his involvement in the group stemmed from his fear of potential threats that states may pose to the 2024 presidential election. The Supreme Court is set to hear a case in the fall that could give state legislatures greater control over elections.

The bipartisan coalition is led by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, and includes an additional seven Republicans and seven Democrats.

“In 2024, the real threat is going to come from states who may throw out the election results and appoint their own electors,” Murphy said. “My chief goal was to make sure there are new protections in the Electoral Count Act to guard against bad state actors who throw out our election results.”

Like most legislation coming before a split 50-50 Senate, Democrats weren’t able to get everything they wanted. The party tried passing a much larger voting rights bill over the past year, which included restoring parts of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, but it stalled in the Senate because of GOP objections.

Reforming the Electoral Count Act was one area of elections reform that many in both parties could get behind, albeit with a much



Murphy

One of those included “clarifying” Section 2, which prohibits voting practices and laws from discriminating against voters based on race.

“I know there’s a lot of disappointment there, for good reason, that this bill doesn’t go further,” Murphy said, referring to what he’s heard from voting rights advocates. “Early in the process, there was some hope that we could include some improvements to the Voting Rights Act in this bill, and we were not able to get agreement on those provisions.”

“I and others thought it was still worthwhile to move forward with a narrow reform of the Electoral Count Act,” he added.

Both pieces of the new legislation propose a fairly lengthy list of reforms.

The first bill, among other things, establishes an “expedited judicial review” to deal with candidate legal challenges and affirms that the vice president’s role is merely ceremonial in overseeing Congress’ certification process.

It also includes a provision that would raise the threshold for objecting to a state’s election results by requiring one-fifth of

lawmakers in both chambers to do so. Currently, it takes one member in the House and Senate to raise an objection.

The other bill seeks to boost security for poll workers, candidates and voters who face threats of intimidation or violence, raising the penalty to a maximum of two years in prison. It also reauthorizes the independent Election Assistance Commission for five years and reaffirms that electronic election records must be preserved.

The proposed reforms are likely the only election-style legislation that can get through Congress, especially in a divided Senate where a certain amount of Republican support is needed. But Murphy said he feels “pretty confident” they’ll get the necessary votes to pass it.

There are already eight GOP senators on board, which means they only need two more Republican votes if all 50 Democrats are supportive. Most legislation needs to reach the 60-vote threshold to overcome a potential filibuster.

Other than the Republicans in the bipartisan group, others in the GOP have expressed an openness to the bill. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, indicated again on Wednesday that he could support it, saying at a press conference that the 1887 law “does need to be fixed” and that he’s been in “constant contact” with Collins, the lead GOP negotiator.

It’s still unclear how soon the Senate will move on the legislation, especially with the month-long

August recess approaching and a number of other high-priority bills on deck, but Murphy said lawmakers need to get it done before the end of the year. Regardless of which party wins control of the House and Senate in November, Democrats will still control Congress through at least early January.

As Congress seeks to streamline the federal certification process, states have been enacting bills that either strengthen or limit voting rights.

For a blue state, Connecticut has some of the more restrictive state voting laws in the country, though it eased them during the COVID-19 pandemic. Connecticut is one of 15 states that require an excuse to vote by absentee ballot. And it is one of four states that don’t allow in-person early voting. The state, however, offers Election Day voter registration.

But Connecticut has recently sought to broaden voter access. In April, Gov. Ned Lamont signed into law a bill expanding who is eligible for absentee voting. But there would need to be a constitutional amendment to make larger changes to how the state conducts its elections.

Murphy and others acknowledge the federal legislation isn’t perfect and it’ll take the cooperation of everyone to prevent another Jan. 6.

Lisa Hagen is a reporter for The Connecticut Mirror (<https://ctmirror.org/>). Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror.

3 charged in fight at Shelton party that led to fatal stabbing of teen

By Taylor Hartz
Hartford Courant

Three teenagers have been charged with assault in connection to a fight at a party in Shelton in May that led to a fight at a different party later that night where 17-year-old James “Jimmy” McGrath was fatally stabbed, police said.

The Shelton Police Department on Thursday announced that a 16-year-old boy and two 17-year-old boys were charged with assault in connection to a fight at a party

that broke out on Lazy Brook Road in Shelton on May 14. During the fight, a 16-year-old boy, who was invited to the party, was assaulted by the three teens, police said. One of the teens, police said, assaulted the victim with a helmet.

That fight, police have said, led to an argument over a group chat that ended with teenagers from St. Joseph’s High School in Trumbull showing up to a 50-person party on Laurel Glen Drive later that night.

At the Laurel Glen Drive party, police alleged that 16-year-old Raul “Lito” Valle, a junior and foot-

ball player at St. Joseph’s, took out a knife and stabbed four teenagers — one fatally — while fighting on the front lawn.

McGrath, an athlete at Fairfield College Preparatory School, was stabbed once in the chest and died on the lawn, police said.

Valle is charged as an adult in his murder. He faces charges of murder and three counts of first-degree assault for allegedly stabbing three other teens who were wounded in the fight and has not yet entered a plea. He is under house arrest at his mother’s house

after posting a \$2 million bond, according to police and court records.

Shelton police said Thursday that on July 21, the three teenagers turned themselves in on active arrest warrants.

The 16-year-old and one of the 17-year-olds were charged with third-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace, police said. They have both been released from custody.

The other 17-year-old was charged with second-degree assault and second-degree breach of peace. He was released after posting a \$25,000 bond, police said.

All three teens are scheduled to appear in court next on Aug. 3, police said. They have not been identified because of their age.

Valle is scheduled to appear in court next on Sept. 12, according to court records. At his last court appearance earlier this month, his attorney Kevin Smith asked for more time to review evidence in his client’s case.

McGrath’s family and friends were visibly upset before, during and after the court hearing. McGrath’s father has spoken out, thanking the community for their support since his son’s murder and asking the teen’s friends to leave the investigation to officials and remain peaceful, despite their pain.

Valle and his family have not commented on the case other than a statement from his father outside the Derby courthouse shortly after the stabbing in which he said “I’m sorry. I’m sorry to the family.”

Garden

from Page 1

Laura’s Garden Foundation was established shortly after Laura’s passing in 2021 to honor her legacy and inspire others. One of the initiatives of the foundation is to give back to early education programs honoring Laura’s passion for helping children.

“Earlier this spring the foundation funded 15 butterfly boxes to grow and release butterflies in local elementary schools,” Kirsche Jr. said. “There is also an elementary school nearby where my other sister is an art teacher. She hopes to use the garden as inspiration in her classes and take students there to learn about art and nature.”

The garden will be built in the shape of a nautilus shell symbolizing perfection, beauty, strength, spiritual growth, creation and movement. The Foundation hopes the garden “will provide an inviting gathering place for all visitors to Old Wethersfield.”

“It’s going to be a place where people can reflect and not only appreciate nature but take a moment to remember Laura’s life,” said Wethersfield Mayor Michael Rell, who spoke at the ceremony. “Having the garden so close to Mikey’s Place is a testament to another young life taken way too soon. It is very fitting they both are right next to each other for other people to enjoy.”

Mikey’s Place is a wheelchair accessible community playground in Standish Park. It was built in 2000 by family and friends of Michael “Mikey” James Daversa, who was just two years old when he passed away in 1998. Mikey, much

like Laura, inspired others through his courageous battle after being born with a neuromuscular disease.

“My sister and her three children spent many summer days at Mikey’s Place,” Kirsche Jr. said. “It was a happy place for her. So to have the garden so close is what she would have wanted.”

So far the foundation has received \$87,000 in private donations to fund the garden, with engineering consultant BETA Group Inc. helping with landscape design and Sanzaro Landscaping & Construction helping with the ground-breaking.

“Once we were approved as a nonprofit organization earlier this year we held several fundraising campaigns to make this garden a reality,” said Sherri Laabs, chair for the Laura’s Garden Foundation. “March was Laura’s birthday month so that whole month we did a ‘spreading sunshine’ social media campaign where we partnered with 1-800-Flowers to send flowers to anyone who wanted them. We made 45% profit from each delivery and were able to raise around \$28,000 dollars.”

Other events are planned, including a backyard BBQ bash at the Solomon Welles House in Wethersfield, which will include live music, vendors and food trucks, on Sept. 18.

“I was lucky to have met her and known her,” Laabs said. “We quickly became great friends the last five years of Laura’s life. She touched everyone who met her and she is still inspiring others to this day.”

Stephen Underwood can be reached at sunderwood@courant.com

Man gets prison for stealing \$679K from his grandparents

Staff report

A South Windsor man was sentenced to prison Thursday for stealing approximately \$679,000 from his grandparents, according to federal authorities.

Douglas Senerth, 33, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, with the first six months of his supervised release in home confinement, according to federal authorities.

Federal authorities, citing court documents and statements made in court, said that between 2011 and 2019 Senerth defrauded his grandmother and his late grandfather by falsely claiming to be a college student and inducing them to give him approximately \$419,000 to pay for “nonexistent college tuition and other related expenses, and an additional approximately

\$260,000 by falsely claiming that he would invest their money into an investment fund run by one of his nonexistent professors.”

“As part of the scheme, Senerth created fraudulent college transcripts, letters and email accounts that he used to corroborate his lies,” federal authorities said in a statement.

U.S. District Judge Robert N. Chatigny also ordered Senerth to pay restitution of \$679,944.

Senerth has been in state custody since Feb. 10, 2021, when he was arrested on unrelated charges, the statement said.

He pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of wire fraud on Feb. 23, 2022.

Senerth’s state case is pending, the statement said, noting his federal sentence will begin when his state case is resolved.

STAFFORD

Driver injured in rollover crash on Tetrault Road

A 37-year-old man was seriously injured in a rollover crash in Stafford late Thursday night, according to the Connecticut State Police.

Troopers were called to Tetrault Road for a report of a motor vehicle crash. Upon arrival, police said they determined that a Stafford man driving a Ford Mustang ran off the road, hit a tree, rolled over and came to a final rest off the roadway.

The Stafford Fire Department transported the driver to Hartford Hospital with suspected serious injuries, police said.

Anyone who may have witnessed this collision is asked to contact Trooper Gagne at 860-896-3200, ext. 8011.

— Mike Mavredakis

WEST HARTFORD

Two injured, including officer, in car crash involving police cruiser

Two people were injured, including a police officer, after a car accident in West Hartford on Thursday afternoon.

The West Hartford Police Department and West Hartford Fire Department responded to a car accident involving a police vehicle and passenger vehicle at the intersection of Boulevard and

Trout Brook Drive around 4:45 p.m.

Both drivers were transported to area hospitals for non-life-threatening injuries, police said.

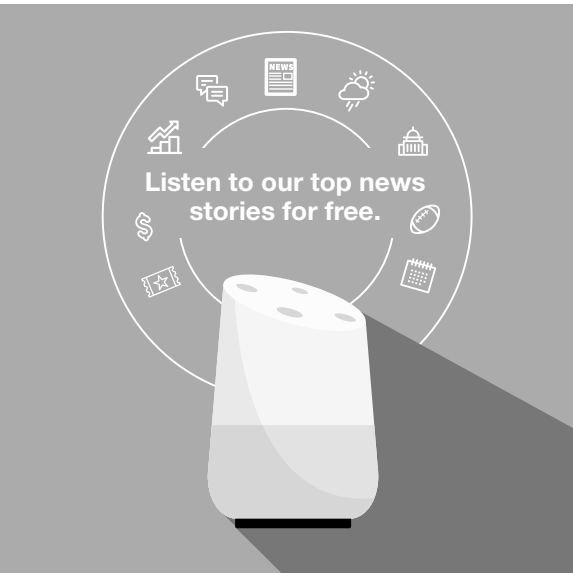
The intersection, located in a high-activity area, was closed for at least two hours.

This incident is being investigated by the West Hartford Police

Department Traffic Division.

Anyone who witnessed the crash or has information on it is asked to contact West Hartford Police at 860-570-8860, the anonymous tip line at (860) 570-8969 or the confidential email tip line at whpdtips@westhartfordct.gov.

— Mike Mavredakis



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BUSINESS

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Twitter’s earnings tumble amid legal fight with Musk

Report also cites hiring slowdown in lackluster economy, slumping stock price

By Kate Conger and Adam Satariano
The New York Times

Twitter is embroiled in a grueling legal fight with Elon Musk as he tries to back out of a \$44 billion acquisition of the company. It has slowed its hiring as it grapples with a flagging economy. Its stock price has slumped.

On Friday, Twitter revealed the toll from those challenges. In an earnings report, the company said the uncertainty caused by Musk had hurt its business, alongside macroeconomic troubles. Twitter’s revenue declined for the first time since 2020 as it struggled to be a destination for advertisers and swung to a net loss.

The lackluster earnings report ramps up the blame game that has erupted between Twitter and Musk, who swooped in and exposed the company’s lack of business and financial prospects as he has gone back-and-forth over buying the social media service. Musk, who also leads electric carmaker Tesla, had agreed to buy Twitter in April and said he would take it private.

He privately told investors that he could quintuple the company’s revenue by 2028 and expand it to 931 million users that same year.

But as the stock market has teetered, pulling down shares of Tesla — which is his main source of wealth and which lost a third of its value this year — Musk made increasingly barbed comments about Twitter. This month, he moved to terminate the deal. Twitter has since sued him to complete the purchase, and a five-day trial to adjudicate the matter is scheduled for October in Delaware Chancery Court.

“Twitter now has an acquirer who no longer wants it, it has a CEO and a board who want to get rid of it, and an employee base who is caught in the middle,” said Mike Proulx, a research director at Forrester. “None of this is good for Twitter.”

In its earnings statement, Twitter attributed the disappointing results to “advertising industry headwinds associated with the macroenvironment as well as uncertainty related to the pending acquisition of Twitter by an affiliate of Elon Musk.”

In total, revenue was \$1.18 billion for the second quarter, down 1% from a year earlier, a far cry from the 20% growth that it had once predicted for the year. Twitter’s revenue fell 2% between the first and second quarter, which roughly coincides with the periods immediately before and after Musk made his move on the company.

Net loss was \$270 million, a major swing downward compared with a profit of \$66 million in the same quarter last year, as costs and expenses grew.

There was one bright spot: Twitter said it had 237.8 million daily active users who saw ads, up nearly 17% from a year earlier.

In recent months, Twitter and other social media companies have confronted a gloomy advertising market. Fears about an economic downturn have tamped down ad spending, which social media firms rely on for most of their revenue.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal has told employees the company has not lived up to its potential and has cut costs, fired top executives and exhorted employees to ignore Musk’s fireworks in recent months.

Germany OKs bailout for energy distributor

By Geir Moulson
Associated Press

BERLIN — The German government will take a roughly 30% stake in energy supplier Uniper as part of a rescue package prompted by surging prices for natural gas and reduced Russian deliveries, the company and Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Friday.

Uniper, which has been Germany’s biggest importer of Russian gas used to fuel industry, generate electricity and heat homes, asked for a bailout two weeks ago. German officials quickly pledged that they would help, but thrashing out the details took time. One result will be higher prices for customers.

Uniper had previously downgraded its financial outlook for this year, pointing to a sharp reduction in gas deliveries by Russia’s state-owned Gazprom in recent weeks that has forced it to buy substitute supplies at significantly higher prices.

Scholz said Uniper is “of paramount significance for the economic development of our country and for energy supply to individual citizens, but also to many companies.”

“It was necessary to stabilize Uniper now,” he told reporters in Berlin. “If I remember rightly, about 60% of gas imports in Germany are ultimately organized in a certain way via this distributor. That is a very, very big chunk, so it’s clear you can imagine that there would have been practically no company at the end of these supply chain that wouldn’t be affected.”

The package announced Friday will result in an increase in consumers’ gas prices, which have already been high and are driving inflation. Scholz said a levy for gas customers will start in September or October that could lead to an increase of 2 euro cents per kilowatt hour, which could add up to about \$200 to \$300 per year to the bill for a family of four.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

YouTube tackles abortion content

SAN BRUNO, Calif. — YouTube will begin removing misleading videos about abortion in response to falsehoods being spread about the procedure that is being banned or restricted across a broad swath of the U.S.

The move announced Thursday by the Google-owned video site comes nearly a month after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the case that had protected the legality of abortion in the country for nearly 50 years.

YouTube said its crackdown, which will ramp up over the next few weeks, will expunge content promoting unsafe at-home abortions, as well as misinformation about the safety of undergoing the procedure in clinics located in states where it remains legal.

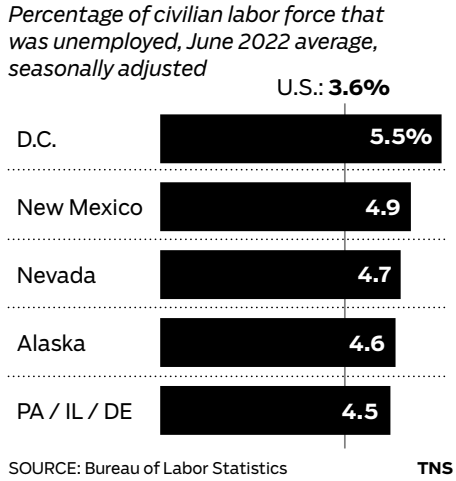
Volkswagen CEO abruptly resigns

BERLIN — Herbert Diess, who helped restore Volkswagen’s reputation after a costly and embarrassing diesel emissions scandal, resigned unexpectedly Friday after a tenure marked by friction with the carmaker’s powerful labor union.

The CEO’s resignation is sure to raise fresh questions about the company’s convoluted governance structure, an uneasy balance of power among labor representatives, local government and descendants of Ferdinand Porsche, who oversaw construction of the Beetle in the 1930s.

The giant automaker said Diess would leave at the end of August, without giving a reason for his departure. He will be succeeded by Oliver Blume, CEO of Porsche, the company’s profitable sports car unit.

States with the highest unemployment



Intermountain Power Agency spokesperson John Ward walks through a coal-fueled power plant June 22 in Delta, Utah. Developers won a federal loan guarantee for a plan to convert the 40-year-old plant into a facility that burns cleanly-made hydrogen fuel. RICK BOWMER/AP

Coal town’s hydrogen hopes

Developers plan to create massive caverns under Utah desert for storing clean fuel

By Sam Metz
Associated Press

DELTA, Utah — The coal plant is closing. In this tiny Utah town surrounded by cattle, alfalfa fields and scrub-lined desert highways, hundreds of workers over the next few years will be laid off — casualties of environmental regulations and competition from cheaper energy sources.

Yet across the street from the coal piles and furnace, beneath dusty fields, another transformation is underway that could play a pivotal role in providing clean energy and replace some of those jobs.

Here in the rural Utah desert, developers plan to create caverns in ancient salt dome formations underground where they hope to store hydrogen fuel at an unprecedented scale. The undertaking is one of several projects that could help determine how big a role hydrogen will play globally in providing reliable, around-the-clock, carbon-free energy in the future.

What sets the project apart from other

renewable energy ventures is it’s about seasonal storage more than producing energy. The salt caves will function like gigantic underground batteries, where energy in the form of hydrogen gas can be stored.

“The world is watching this project,” said Rob Webster, a co-founder of Magnum Development, one of the companies spearheading the effort. “These technologies haven’t been scaled up to the degree that they will be for this.”

In June, the U.S. Department of Energy announced a \$504 million loan guarantee to help finance the “Advanced Clean Energy Storage” project — one of its first loans since President Joe Biden revived the Obama-era program known for making loans to Tesla and Solyndra. The support is intended to help convert the site of a 40-year-old coal plant to a facility that burns cleanly-made hydrogen by 2045.

Amid polarizing energy policy debates, the proposal is unique for winning support from a broad coalition that includes the Biden administration, Sen. Mitt Romney and the five other Republicans who make up Utah’s congressional delegation, rural county commissioners and power providers.

Renewable energy advocates see the Utah project as a potential way to ensure reliability as more of the electrical grid becomes powered by intermittent renewable energy in the years ahead.

In 2025, the initial fuel for the plant will be a mix of hydrogen and natural gas. It will thereafter transition to running entirely on hydrogen by 2045. Skeptics worry that could be a ploy to prolong the use of fossil fuels for two decades. Others say they support investing in clean, carbon-free hydrogen projects, but worry doing so may actually create demand for “blue” or “gray” hydrogen, names given to hydrogen produced using natural gas.

This project converts excess wind and solar power to a form that can be stored. Proponents of clean hydrogen hope they can bank energy during seasons when supply outpaces demand and use it when it’s needed in later seasons.

When consumers require more power than they can get from renewables, the hydrogen will be piped across the street to the site of the Intermountain Power Plant and burned to power turbines, similar to how coal is used today. That, in theory, makes it a reliable complement to renewables.

Russian central bank slashes key interest rate

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian central bank diverged from its Western counterparts by slashing its key interest rate Friday just a month after dropping it to where it was before the country sent troops into Ukraine.

The bank lowered its key rate by 1.5 percentage points, to 8%, saying consumer prices are still easing partly because consumer demand has been falling. It said inflation expectations have “significantly decreased,” reaching spring 2021 levels, while a decline in business activity was slower than expected in June.

However, “the external environment for the Russian economy remains challenging and continues to significantly constrain

economic activity,” the central bank said in a statement.

It had hiked the rate as high as 20% in the wake of the Feb. 24 invasion into Ukraine and the resulting Western sanctions that restrict dealings with Russian banks, individuals and companies.

As sanctions and the exit of Western companies from Russia have led to global economic isolation, the central bank has managed to stabilize the currency and financial system by preventing money from leaving Russia and forcing exporters to exchange most of their foreign earnings into rubles.

The ruble traded at 58.8 to the dollar Friday, making it worth more than the day before the invasion of Ukraine, when it took

78.8 rubles to reach \$1.

The bank said annual inflation fell to 15.9% in June, compared with 17.1% in May, and estimated it slid to 15.5% as of July 15. It cited “subdued consumer demand” and the ruble’s exchange rate for the drop.

“The recent essentially involuntary accumulation of savings is a compressed spring in the economy, which can cause dramatic consumption growth under certain circumstances,” Russian central bank head Elvira Nabiullina said during a news conference. “It can quickly speed up demand inflation when the offer of goods and services is limited.”

The bank expects inflation to keep going down — from 12% to 15% this year, to 5% to 7% in 2023, and 4% in 2024.

BUSINESS



A girl plays with a dog on July 19 at a pet shelter in Kyiv, Ukraine. Volunteers opened a shelter to take in family pets shellshocked amid the ongoing war with Russia. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Shelter in Ukrainian capital rescues war-haunted animals

By Hanna Arhirova
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Shellshocked family pets started roaming around Ukraine’s capital with nowhere to go in the opening stages of Russia’s war.

Volunteers opened a shelter to take them in and try to find them new homes or some human companionship. Every day, Kyiv residents come to visit cats and dogs evacuated from cities on the frontlines or left without owners because of the nearly five-month war.

Hrystyna Sairova and her 12-year-old daughter Anna walk rescued dogs three to four times a week. Many of them arrived at the temporary shelter with lost paws or other serious injuries, Sairova said.

“They don’t deserve this, nor do humans. They are members of our families,” she said.

The shelter occupies a small building that was once an exhibition space to showcase the achievements of the Soviet Union. Kennels and leashes fill a corridor, and a playroom is furnished with bowls and toys inside the haven for

animals that would not exist if Russia had not invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

“We could not ignore the fact that due to active hostilities, animals began to appear on the city streets,” said shelter coordinator Natalia Mazur, who also manages the Kyiv City Hospital of Veterinary Medicine.

The shelter opened May 31, around the time Russian troops withdrew from the Kyiv region to concentrate attacks on eastern Ukraine. More than 195 animals have come through the doors, including 160 that either were reunited with their owners or found new homes, Mazur said.

Like people, animals face trauma from war, suffering psychologically from bombing, shelling and shooting, Mazur said. Some of the animals were withdrawn and wouldn’t eat when they first arrived at the shelter.

“To get out of this state, they need someone,” Mazur said. “The animal needs human care.”

The makeshift space fulfills more than one kind of need. When the staff held an open house last weekend, more than 1,000

people showed up to walk the 25 dogs then staying at the shelter along with 11 cats.

“People now want to take care of someone,” Mazur said.

The Ukrainian government doesn’t have a program for evacuating animals in wartime, but there are private and volunteer initiatives. The nongovernmental organization UA Animals hired people and paid them to rescue animals from combat zones.

“We’re actually evacuating not the animals themselves, but the people, who won’t go anywhere without their pets,” UA Animals founder Oleksandr Todorchuk said.

Volunteers plan to keep the temporary shelter going as long as the war continues.

Nadiya Oleksyuk has a full-time job in computer programming but goes to the shelter every morning “because she has to.” In a trembling voice, Oleksyuk explains she feels “a general guilt as a human being that the animals are in this situation.”

“It’s not the animals’ fault that war happened,” she said.

GOP AGs warn Google about anti-abortion clinic searches

By Sarah Rankin
Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A month after some members of Congress urged Google to limit the appearance of anti-abortion pregnancy clinics in certain abortion-related search results, 17 Republican attorneys general are warning the company that doing so could invite investigations and possible legal action.

“Suppressing pro-life and pro-mother voices at the urging of government officials would violate the most fundamental tenet of the American marketplace of ideas,” the attorneys general wrote in a letter Thursday to Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and its parent company.

The effort was led by Republican Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, and the letter was shared with The Associated Press ahead of its public release.

The Republicans took issue with a June 17 letter to the company from Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., which was co-signed by 19 other members of Congress.

That letter cites research by the nonprofit Center for Countering Digital Hate, which found that Google searches for “abortion clinic near me” and “abortion pill” turned up results for clinics that counsel clients against having an abortion.

Some of these places, known as crisis pregnancy centers, also have been accused of providing misleading information about abortion and contraception. Many are religiously affiliated.

“Directing women towards fake clinics that traffic in misinformation and don’t provide comprehensive health services is dangerous to women’s



Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares is one of the leaders of an effort to warn Google about limits on anti-abortion pregnancy clinics in certain search results. STEVE HELBER/AP

health and undermines the integrity of Google’s search results,” says the June letter, which was authored after the leak of a draft opinion indicating the U.S. Supreme Court would overturn the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. The court took that step June 24.

The Democrat-led group asked Google to address what steps it would take to limit the appearance of “crisis pregnancy centers” in its search results, ads and maps results for users who search for “abortion clinic,” “abortion pill” or other similar terms.

The group also asked the company if it would add disclaimers to address whether or not a clinic provides abortions.

New York Attorney General Letitia James’ office also raised similar concerns in a letter to Google last month.

The letter from the Republican AGs defends the work of crisis pregnancy centers. It notes that such centers often provide services such as free ultrasounds, pregnancy tests, testing for sexually transmitted diseases, and parenting and prenatal education classes. It also argues that “at least some” Google users who search for information about abortion expect to find

information about alternatives.

They wrote that if the company complies with “this inappropriate demand” to “bias” its search results, their offices would respond by investigating whether there had been any violation of antitrust or religious discrimination laws. They also pledged to consider whether new legislation would help “protect consumers and markets.”

“We trust that you will treat this letter with the seriousness these issues require, and hope you will decide that Google’s search results must not be subject to left-wing political pressure, which would actively harm women seeking essential assistance. If you do not, we must avail ourselves of all lawful and appropriate means of protecting the rights of our constituents, of upholding viewpoint diversity, free expression, and the freedom of religion for all Americans, and of making sure that our markets are free in fact, not merely in theory,” the letter said.

It asked the California-based company to respond within 14 days and explain whether it has or will take any steps to treat crisis pregnancy centers any differently than before the leak of the draft Supreme Court decision.

MARKET RUNDOWN

Saturday, July 23, 2022

↓ DOW

31,899.29 -137.61

↓ 10-YR T-BOND

2.78% -.13

↑ GOLD

\$1,727.10 +14.40

Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 31,899.29
Change: -137.61 (-0.4%)

10 DAYS

Domestic Indexes			
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	31,899.29	-137.61	-12.22%
DOW Trans.	13,811.15	-54.27	-16.19%
DOW Util.	960.95	+12.00	-2.02%
NYSE Comp.	14,790.79	-80.34	-13.83%
Nasdaq Comp.	11,834.11	-225.50	-24.36%
S&P 500	3,961.63	-37.32	-16.88%
S&P 400	2,396.73	-21.10	-15.67%
Wilshire 5000	39,472.44	-455.20	-18.55%
Russell 2000	1,806.88	-29.81	-19.53%

Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	94.70	96.35	+25.91%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	8.30	7.93	+122.49%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	3.22	3.15	+44.63%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,727.10	1,712.70	-5.49%
Silver (oz)	18.59	18.69	-20.33%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange			
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	
Britain	1.1978	.8349	
Canada	.7739	1.2921	
China	.1481	6.7513	
Euro	1.0195	.9809	
Japan	.007342	136.19	
Mexico	.048605	20.5740	

Money Rates			
	CLOSE	PREV.	WK.
Prime rate	4.75	4.75	
3-mo. T-Bill	2.46	2.33	
6-mo. T-Bill	3.02	2.91	
5-yr T-Note	2.87	3.05	
10-yr T-Note	2.78	2.93	
30-yr T-Bond	3.00	3.10	

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	13,253.68	+7.04	+0.05% -16.56%
London	7,276.37	+5.86	+0.08% -1.46%
Hong Kong	20,609.14	+34.51	+1.7% -11.92%
Nikkei	27,914.66	+111.66	+4.0% -3.05%

Stocks of Local Interest									
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	15.50	-1.50	-43.0		MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	30.94	-.50	-31.1	
AT&T Inc (T)	18.40	-.52	-25.2		Marathon Digital Hld (MARA)	12.42	-1.07	-75.6	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	88.10	-2.99	-38.8		Meta Platforms Inc (META)	169.27	-13.90	-49.7	
Alphabet Inc C (GOOG)	108.36	-6.68	-25.1		MetLife Inc (MET)	60.85	-.26	-2.6	
Alphabet Inc A (GOOGL)	107.90	-6.44	-25.5		Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.02	-.09	-80.5	
Amazon.com Inc (AMZN)	122.42	-2.21	-26.6		Novartis AG (NVS)	85.87	-.02	-1.8	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	13.68	-.40	-23.8		Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	173.19	-7.31	-41.1	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	69.82	-.13	-20.2		Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	71.90	-1.05	-17.4	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	154.09	-1.26	-13.2		Pagaya Technolog A (PGY)	11.71	+6.36	+92.6	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.34	+3.7	9.1		Palantir Technol (PLTR)	9.84	-.65	-46.0	
Bank of America (BAC)	33.43	-.22	-24.9		Pfizer Inc (PFE)	51.23	+.11	-13.2	
Barnes Group (B)	32.56	-.01	-30.1		Pinterest Inc (PINS)	18.11	-2.83	-50.2	
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	15.33	-.17	-19.3		Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.11	-.10	-38.0	
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	1809.88	-19.53	-24.6		Prudential FncI (PRU)	95.51	-.56	-11.8	
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	72.95	-.09	+17.0		Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	60.10	+5.0	-9.9	
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	94.06	+8.57	-5.8		Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	94.21	-.68	+9.5	
Carnival Corp (CCL)	9.26	-.59	-84.0		Rogers Corp (ROG)	267.89	-.71	-1.9	
Carrier Global Corp (CHR)	38.50	+2.3	-29.0		Roblox Corp (RBLX)	39.40	-2.52	-61.8	
Charter Communinc (CHTR)	485.70	-7.04	-25.5		SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	62.79	+2.9	-23.4	
Cigna Corp (CI)	269.20	+2.85	+17.2		Shopify Inc (SHOP)	37.35	-3.05	...	
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (CLF)	15.62	-1.52	-28.2		Snap Inc A (SNAP)	9.96	-6.39	-78.8	
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	42.60	+3.3	-15.4		Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	115.70	-.04	-38.7	
Disney (DIS)	102.72	-1.46	-33.7		Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	22.59	+0.3	-7.0	
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	106.51	-.30	-16.4		Stronghold Digit Mng (SDIG)	2.98	...	-76.8	
Ethan Allen (ETD)	22.71	-.09	-13.6		Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.31	-.03	-46.0	
Eversource Energy (ES)	84.06	+1.04	-7.6		Terex Corp (TEX)	30.87	-.45	-29.8	
Biofem Biosciences (EVFM)	.86	-.14	-84.8		Tesla Inc (TSLA)	816.73	+1.61	-22.7	
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.15	+0.0	-82.6		Tilray Brands Inc (TLRY)	3.50	-.25	-50.2	
Faraday Fut Intilgnt (FFIE)	2.60	-.81	-51.1		ToughBuilt Inc (TBLT)	7.98	+2.26	-85.4	
Ford Motor (F)	12.82	-.18	-38.3		Travelers Cos (TRV)	156.42	-.41	...	
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	3.33	-.21	-36.0		Twitter Inc (TWTR)	39.84	+3.2	-7.8	
Gen Dynamics (GBD)	216.76	-.13	+4.0		United Rentals (URI)	274.29	-5.50	-17.5	
Gen Electric (GE)	68.19	+0.6	-27.8		UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	521.41	-1.05	+3.8	
Gevo Inc (GEVO)	2.45	-.27	-42.8		Verizon Comm (VZ)	44.45	-3.21	-14.5	
Guardforce AI Co Ltd (GFAI)	.36	+0.8	-66.7		Virtus Invest (VRTS)	190.18	-1.41	-36.0	
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	63.78	+7.2	-7.6		VistaGen Therap (VTGN)	.15	-.92	-92.3	
Honeywell Intl (HON)	181.47	+1.44	-13.0		Voya Financial (VOYA)	58.99	-.52	-11.0	
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	12.42	-.01	-22.0		Webster Financial (WBS)	45.06	-.76	-19.3	
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	18.88	-.33	-25.9		White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1227.05	-2.14	+21.0	
Intel Corp (INTC)	39.20	-1.41	-23.4		World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	66.22	+.41	+34.2	
Kaman (KAMN)	29.73	-.57	-31.1		XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	54.20	-.47	-30.0	
Keycorp (KEY)	18.04	-.22	-22.0		Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	15.90	-.40	-29.8	
Kinross Gold (KGC)	3.25	...	-44.1						
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	49.64	-.86	-27.3						
M&T Bank (MTB)	168.96	-.26	+10.0						

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OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leora Levy a huge asset for Democrats

I admittedly do not know much about Leora Levy’s policies, and reading her op-ed did little to clarify any of her specific proposals or ideas [Page 9, July 11, “America is under attack from out-of-touch Democrats”]. In fact, the entire piece was a rambling, incoherent and jingoist attack on Democrats, complete with the lack of nuance and preponderance of lazy generalities that we have come to expect from Fox News diatribes. She overuses the word “freedom” (five times) to set up her claims that Democrats are “socialist” (four times) and/or “tyrannical” (three times). In her view of the world (as a Greenwich millionaire), there is “general lawlessness,” and apparently Richard Blumenthal and other Democrats encourage “violence on our streets,” along with “invasion, mayhem and death.” But that’s not all! The left is also attempting to “indoctrinate” (four times) our children, apparently looking to Fidel Castro for inspiration. Indeed, far from presenting a serious candidate’s coherent proposals, her piece reads like a crazy uncle’s Trump-inspired holiday rant, complete with all the familiar buzz phrases: traditional American values, critical race theory, woke. The coup de grace, though, has to be her laughable claim that concerned parents are “called domestic terrorists when they try to get involved with their children’s education.” Thank you, Ms. Levy, for offering such a shallow, hysterical, and inarticulate alternative to Mr. Blumenthal, thereby ensuring that Democrats will continue to represent our great state.

Jeff Cianflone, West Hartford

I like opposing views, but Levy’s rant unacceptable

I’m disappointed in The Courant for having published a blatant campaign ad for Leora Levy [Page 9, July 11, “America is under attack from out-of-touch Democrats”]. Ms. Levy is certainly entitled to her opinions, but she states a couple of times that she is running against Sen. Richard Blumenthal and goes on to expound her reasons. Is this not a stump speech for a candidate who does not even have the endorsement of her own declared party and who gives no opportunity for reaction to her opinions? She makes inflammatory accusations against Democrats with no semblance of proof. I, as a registered Democrat, do not subscribe to the broad brushstrokes of Ms. Levy’s accusations and would respectfully suggest many of my fellow Americans do not accept them either. I appreciate reading thoughtful, considered viewpoints other than my own in the Opinion section of the newspaper. I respect reasonable opposition to my views and have been educated to recognize two sides to an issue. But Ms. Levy’s unsubstantiated rants about her narrow viewpoint does nothing to further discussion or to find ways to bring us all closer together.

Catherine Mattheis, Cheshire

Levy, like many in GOP, running on ‘Big Lie’

Senate candidate Leora Levy’s tune is straight from the Republican songbook [Page 9, July 11, “America is under attack from out-of-touch Democrats”]. Out-of-touch radical Democrats are attacking America. Let’s take the most extreme positions of these “radicals” and we’ll find popular, common-sense policies on gun control, abortion, racial justice, health care, income inequality, etc. The Republicans offer no solutions, indeed no platform or policies to deal with inflation, gas prices, crime, instead blaming President Joe Biden for worldwide problems they know full well are caused by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

One hundred Republican nominees are running on the Big Lie and literally attacking our democracy. How’s that for out of touch? If you’re looking for an attack on America, look to the radical right who actually condone and encourage armed insurrection. A majority of Republicans actually embrace the Big Lie and are comfortable with a seditious president. I realize I too am guilty of demonizing one party while defending another, but a rational examination of today’s Republican Party will reveal who’s truly radical and out of touch.

Daniel Ostrow, Middletown



Robert Reich

At 79, Joe Biden is the oldest president in American history. Concerns about his age top the list for why Democratic voters want the party to find an alternative for 2024.

I don’t think this reflects an “ageist” prejudice against those who have reached such withering heights so much as an understanding that people in their late 70s and 80s wither.

I speak with some authority. I’m now a spritely 76 — light-years younger than our president. I feel fit, I swing dance and salsa, and can do 20 pushups in a row. Yet I confess to a certain loss of, shall we say, fizz.

Joe Biden could easily make it until 86, when he’d conclude his second term. After all, it’s now thought a bit disappointing if a person dies before 85.

My mother passed at 86, my father two weeks before his 102nd birthday (so I’m hoping for the best, genetically speaking). Three score and ten is the number of years of life set out in the Bible. Modern technology and Big Pharma should add at least a decade-and-a-half. Beyond this is an extra helping.

“After 80, it’s gravy,” my father used to say.

Joe will be on the cusp of the gravy train.

Where will it end? There’s only one possibility, and that reality occurs to me with increasing frequency.

I find myself reading the obituary pages with ever greater interest, curious about how long they lasted and what brought them down. I remember a New Yorker cartoon in which an older reader of the obituaries sees headlines that read only “Older Than Me” or “Younger Than Me.”

Yet most of the time I forget my age. The other day, after lunch with some of my graduate students, I caught our reflection in a store window and for an instant wondered about the identity of the short old man in our midst.

It’s not death that’s the worrying thing about a second Biden term. It’s the dwindling capacities that go with aging.

“Bodily decrepitude,” said W.B. Yeats, “is wisdom.” I have accumulated somewhat more of the former than the latter, but our president seems fairly spry (why do I feel I have to add “for someone his age?”).

I still have my teeth in contrast to my grandfather, whom I vividly recall storing his choppers in a glass next to



President Joe Biden looks toward Air Force One on Oct. 20 at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. **SUSAN WALSH/AP**

OP-ED

IS BIDEN TOO OLD?

his bed, and have so far steered clear of heart attack or stroke (I pray I’m not tempting fate by stating this fact).

But I’ve lived through several kidney stones and a few unexplained fits of epilepsy in my late 30s. I’ve had both hips replaced. And my hearing is crap. Even with hearing aids I have a hard time understanding someone talking to me in a noisy restaurant.

You’d think the sheer market power of 60 million boomers losing their hearing would be enough to generate at least one chain of quiet restaurants.

When I get together with old friends, our first ritual is an “organ recital” — how’s your back, knee, heart, hip, shoulder, eyesight, hearing, prostate, hemorrhoids, digestion? The recital can run (and ruin) an entire lunch.

The question my friends and I jokingly (and brutally) asked one another in college — “getting much?” — now refers not to sex but to sleep. I don’t know anyone over 75 who sleeps through the night.

When he was president, Bill Clinton prided himself on getting only about four hours, but he was in his 40s then. (I also recall cabinet meetings where he dozed off.) How does Biden manage?

My memory for names is horrible. (I once asked Ted Kennedy how he recalled names and he advised that if a man is over 50, just ask, “How’s the back?” and he’ll think you know him.)

I often can’t remember where I put my wallet and keys or why I’ve entered a room.

And certain proper nouns have disappeared altogether. Even when rediscovered, they have a diabolical way of disappearing again.

Biden’s secret service detail can worry about his wallet and he’s got a teleprompter for wayward nouns, but I’m sure he’s experiencing some diminution in the memory department.

I have lost much of my enthusiasm for travel. I would like to visit China, but only on the condition that I could return home that night.

Air Force One makes this possible under most circumstances. If not, it has a first-class bedroom and personal bathroom, so I don’t expect Biden’s trips are overly taxing.

I’m told that after the age of 60 one loses a half-inch of height every five years. This doesn’t appear to be a problem for Biden, but it presents a challenge for me, considering that at my zenith I didn’t quite make it to 5 feet.

If I live as long as my father did, I may vanish.

Another diminution I’ve noticed is tact. A few days ago I flipped off a driver who passed me recklessly.

I’m also noticing I have less patience, perhaps because of an unconscious “use by” timer that’s now clicking away. Increasingly I wonder why I’m wasting time with this or that buffoon. I’m less tolerant of long waiting lines, automated phone menus and Republicans.

Cicero claimed “older people who are reasonable, good-tempered, and gracious bear aging well. Those who are mean-spirited and irritable will be unhappy at every stage of

their lives.”

Easy for Cicero to say: He was forced into exile and murdered at the age of 63, his decapitated head and right hand hung up in the Forum by order of the notoriously mean-spirited and irritable Marcus Antonius.

How the hell does Biden maintain tact or patience when he has to deal with Mitch McConnell? Or Joe Manchin, for crying out loud?

The style sections of the papers tell us that the 70s are the new 50s. Septuagenarians are supposed to be fit and alert, exercise like mad, have rip-roaring sex and party until dawn. Rubbish. Inevitably, things begin falling apart.

My aunt, who lived far into her 90s, told me “getting old isn’t for sissies.” Toward the end she repeated that phrase every two to three minutes.

Philosopher George Santayana claimed to prefer old age to all others.

“Old age is, or may be as in my case, far happier than youth,” he wrote. “I was never more entertained or less troubled than I am now.”

True for me too in a way. Despite Donald Trump, the ravages of climate change, near record inequality, a potential nuclear war and stubborn pandemic, I remain upbeat — largely because I still spend most days with people in their 20s. But I’m feeling more and more out of it.

I’m doing videos on TikTok and Snapchat, but when my students talk about Ariana Grande, Selena Gomez or Jared Leto, I don’t have a clue who they’re talking about (and frankly don’t care).

And I find myself using words — “hence,” “utmost,” “therefore,” “tony,” “brilliant” — that my younger colleagues find charmingly old-fashioned. If I refer to Rose Mary Woods, Jackie Robinson, Ed Sullivan or Mary Jo Kopechne, they’re bewildered.

The culture has flipped in so many ways. When I was 17, I could go into a drugstore and confidently ask for a package of Luckies and nervously whisper a request for condoms. Now it’s precisely the reverse. (I stopped smoking long ago.)

Santayana said the reason old people have nothing but foreboding about the future is that they cannot imagine a world that’s good without themselves in it. I don’t share that view.

To the contrary, I think my generation — including Bill and Hillary, George W., Trump, Newt Gingrich, Clarence Thomas, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schume and Biden — have screwed it up royally. The world will probably be better without us.

OP-ED

Vote for Liz Cheney (I never thought I’d say that)

By E.J. Dionne Jr.

The Washington Post

Vote for Cheney. Now there is a sentence I never expected to write.

Yes, I hope that every Democrat and every moderate and progressive-minded independent in Wyoming crosses into the Republican primary on Aug. 16, which they can do under state law, and votes for Rep. Liz Cheney.

She needs them all — though a huge non-GOP turnout still may not save her. A Mason-Dixon poll for the Casper Star-Tribune released last week showed Cheney running behind Donald Trump-backed attorney Harriet Hageman, 52% to 30%.

This disheartening finding is a tribute to Cheney’s courage in standing up against Trump in a state where the election-denying prevaricator won 70% of the vote in 2020.

She has long known what the Star-Tribune poll found: that her eloquent leading role in the hearings investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection — poised to reach a climactic point on Thursday — hurt her with the party faithful back home.

Among likely Wyoming Republican primary voters, the Star-Tribune survey found, 63% disapproved of Cheney’s decision to serve on the House select committee, while 54% said her performance on the panel made them less likely to vote for her. Just 22% said they were pushed her way by her mastery at the hearings, which have made her an unexpectedly beloved star among so many elsewhere who disagree with her on almost every policy issue.

Let there be no illusions about Trump’s power with GOP loyalists. His hold over his party was underscored again on Tuesday, when Maryland state legislator Dan Cox, a Trump-backed election denier, won the Republican gubernatorial primary over Kelly Schulz, a former Cabinet secretary to Gov. Larry Hogan, a term-limited Republican. That Schulz had a shot at winning in November by maintaining Hogan’s cross-party appeal in one of the most anti-Trump states in the nation mattered not a whit to a majority of Maryland Republicans. (And,



U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney long has known that her eloquent leading role in the hearings investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection hurt her with the party faithful back home in Wyoming. **SAUL LOEB/GETTY-AFP**

by the way, even if you disapprove of putatively negative Democratic ads lifting up Cox’s Trumpiness to weaken Schulz, those commercials did not force a single Republican to vote for him.)

If the GOP isn’t safe from Trumpism in Maryland, it’s not safe anywhere. It’s no wonder that Cheney and Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, the other Republican member of the Jan. 6 committee, are so lonely. They have been the inquiry’s most persuasive voices precisely because of the political risks they have taken. (Kinzinger decided to not even try to win reelection.) They are paying the highest political price for insisting upon airing the truth.

Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson of Mississippi and his Democratic colleagues understood this from the start and assigned Cheney the role of explicator, narrator and chief prosecutor. It was equally shrewd of them to give Kinzinger the lead role in Thursday’s hearing, which is expected to provide a minute-by-minute account of Trump’s determination to delay calling off the rampaging crowd because he hoped it would prevent the certification of his defeat.

A political party that believed in democracy and the rule of law would long ago have disowned a president who relished violence that served his interests. Its leaders would say things like: “The president bears respon-

sibility for Wednesday’s attack on Congress by mob rioters. He should have immediately denounced the mob when he saw what was unfolding.”

Actually, briefly, they did. That wasn’t Cheney or Kinzinger speaking. Those are the words of House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California, a week after the attack.

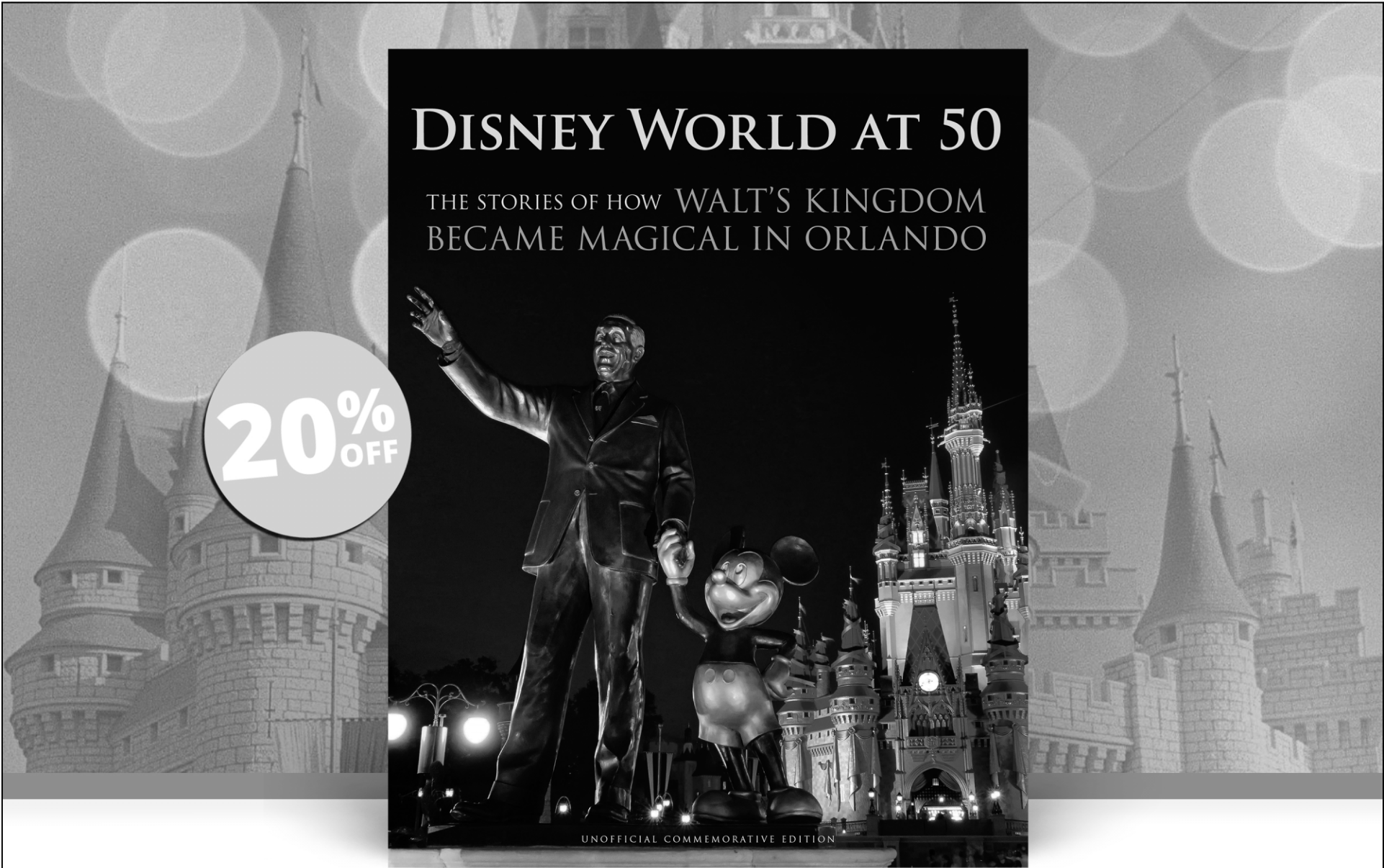
Since then, however, McCarthy and most of his party have reembraced Trump and downplayed the violent coup attempt at the Capitol, and McCarthy subsequently supported ousting Cheney from her party leadership position. Her sin? She stayed true to what McCarthy claimed to believe back when breaking with Trump seemed politically convenient.

This is why Democrats and independents who understand the threat of Trumpism should flood into Wyoming’s Republican primary. Whether or not their efforts sustain Cheney, they would send a message for November: that the threat to democracy is the most important issue on the ballot. Standing with democracy’s defenders, even if you disagree with them on many other issues, should take priority.

By supporting Cheney in large numbers, Democrats would strengthen their case to moderate Republicans and independents whose votes they need, underscoring the urgency of a unified effort against Trumpism — and against McCarthyism (of the Kevin variety), which is spineless flip-flopping on the moral issue of the age.

We can only hope for a time when progressives will again battle with Cheney over her very, very conservative views on a broad range of questions. Supporting her now does not require disowning a single position. It means hastening the day when our debates — about governance and policies, Supreme Court decisions and regulatory choices — can take place outside the shadows threatening the democratic process that allows us to make those choices at the ballot box.

E.J. Dionne Jr. writes about politics for The Washington Post.



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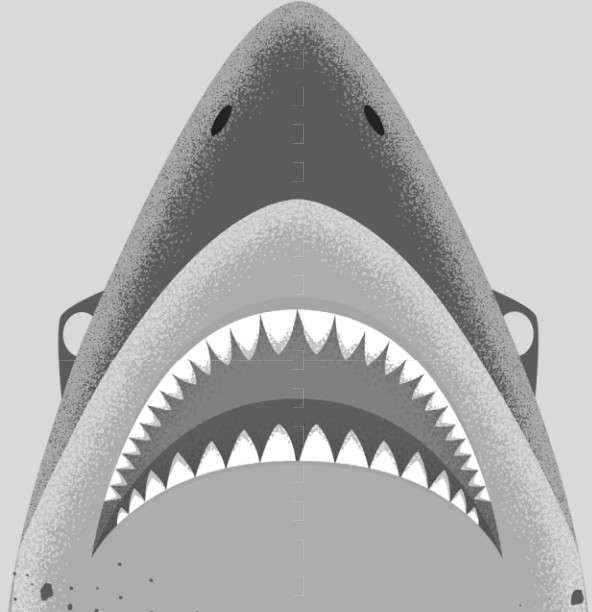


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The 2022 Ford F-150 with the PowerBoost hybrid engine. FORD MOTOR CO.



The full-size 2022 Toyota Tundra hybrid. TOYOTA MOTOR SALES



The 2022 Ram 1500 with the eTorque engine. STELLANTIS



The 2022 Ford Maverick compact pickup truck. FORD MOTOR CO.

A hybrid pickup roundup

In the market for a truck? Consider one that improves fuel economy

By Michael Cantu | Edmunds

The average national price for gasoline has gone up almost \$2 over the past year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That's not good news for some of the thirstiest vehicles on the road: pickup trucks. But there is a relatively new option if you're looking to save on gas: a hybrid pickup.

As with other hybrids, these trucks have a gasoline-powered engine that's augmented with electric motors and a battery to help improve fuel economy. But there are nuances to each automaker's hybrid systems. The experts at Edmunds rounded up all four hybrid trucks on sale today to help you decide which one is the better buy. All prices below include the destination charge.

Ford F-150 Powerboost

PowerBoost is the name given to the first-ever F-150 hybrid engine, and rightly so. It produces more power than any non-hybrid F-150 with the exception of the off-road-focused Raptor: 430 horsepower and 570 lb-ft of torque. It's 3-5 mpg more efficient than a comparable non-hybrid F-150 and can tow more than 12,000 pounds when properly equipped, which is plenty for your average truck owner.

The PowerBoost engine also comes with a handy feature called Pro Power Onboard. It's a built-in electric generator that allows you to run various power tools and even large appliances like a TV or microwave. The PowerBoost powertrain is available on any F-150 SuperCrew cab trim level. On the downside, it can cost up to \$4,495 to add to the truck. But overall the

gains in efficiency and performance are compelling. You may need to adjust your driving style, however, since we've found in our testing that the EPA numbers are difficult to match in the real world. That said, the F-150 is currently Edmunds' highest-rated full-size truck.

Starting price: \$45,210
EPA-estimated fuel economy: 23-25 mpg combined

Toyota Tundra Hybrid

The Tundra's 2022 redesign modernized the aging truck in many ways and introduced the all-new i-Force Max hybrid engine. It's the most powerful hybrid truck on this list, boasting 437 horsepower and 583 lb-ft, but it's a little less efficient than the F-150 PowerBoost. The hybrid powertrain is also only 1-2 mpg more efficient

than the Tundra's regular engine.

Toyota only offers the hybrid engine in the Tundra's Limited trim and higher, plus it needs to be equipped with the CrewMax cab, making it a somewhat costly choice. But like the hybrid F-150, it offers a solid towing capacity of more than 11,000 pounds. All hybrid Tundras come with a large 14-inch touchscreen and heated and ventilated front and rear leather seats.

There's a lot to like about the well-rounded Tundra. But know that it doesn't lead or excel in towing, comfort, efficiency or any major truck category. **Starting price:** \$54,695
EPA-estimated fuel economy: 20-22 mpg combined

Ram 1500 eTorque

The Ram 1500 eTorque is the only mild hybrid system on this list. Ram offers it on both the V6 and V8 engines and on any trim level. The eTorque system doesn't increase the total power output of either engine, but instead it adds short bursts of supplemental power when the engine needs it the most and smooths out the operation of the engine's stop-start system. Most importantly, it improves fuel efficiency by 2-3 mpg compared to the Ram's non-hybrid gasoline engines.

Surprisingly, there is no upcharge for the eTorque system on the V8, and it's standard on the V6. The Ram 1500 is currently Edmunds' second-highest-rated full-size truck. It's the most

comfortable truck in its class and its mild hybrid powertrain is silky smooth. **Starting price:** \$38,295 (V6); \$41,090 (V8)
EPA-estimated fuel economy: 21-22 mpg combined (V6); 19-20 mpg combined (V8)

Ford Maverick

The Maverick is an all-new compact truck that comes standard with a 191-horsepower hybrid powertrain. It's by far the most efficient truck on the market and is as efficient as a small hybrid SUV. The hybrid engine is only available with front-wheel drive, so if you plan on taking it off-road or live in a cold climate, you might want to reconsider.

On the plus side, the little Maverick has a low starting price, about the same as a compact car, making it the most affordable truck you can buy. It can tow as much as your average small SUV and has a solid payload capacity of 1,500 pounds.

The Maverick hybrid's pricing and fuel economy are attractive, but beyond that, it's quite the utilitarian truck.

Starting price: \$22,490
EPA-estimated fuel economy: 37 mpg combined

Edmunds says: Hybrid pickup trucks are great for their additional power and efficiency. Most will cost extra, but if you have the budget for one, we think the benefits are worth it.

More consumers now want to buy electric cars, survey says

By Rob Nikolewski
San Diego Union-Tribune

A growing number of Americans are coming around to the idea of driving electric vehicles, with 71% expressing at least some degree of interest in buying or leasing EVs, according to a national survey released this month by Consumer Reports.

Of more than 8,000 respondents, 14% said they would definitely buy or lease an EV and 22%

said they would "seriously consider" one. Another 35% said they "might consider getting an electric-only vehicle in the future."

That's up from 4% who in 2020 said they would definitely buy or lease an EV.

"Millions of drivers want to go electric, that was clear from the survey," said Quinta Warren, associate director of sustainability policy for Consumer Reports. "So the demand is

growing."

The poll was taken between Jan. 27 to Feb. 18, at a time when gasoline prices were on the rise but before they spiked to an average of \$5 per gallon nationwide. That leads Warren to think consumer interest in EVs would be even higher if the survey were conducted today.

"People understand that it costs them less money to charge an electric vehicle than it does to fuel a gas car," she said, "so abso-

lutely, it makes perfect sense to assume that the demand would go up."

While the national numbers are on the rise, 28% of those surveyed said they would not consider switching to an EV and some of the hurdles cited are familiar ones:

- 61% had concerns about where and when they could find places to charge their vehicles;
- 55% had "range anxiety" — that is, they feared the EV would conk out

before they had a chance to recharge the car's battery, and;

- 52% worried about the sticker price and the costs of maintaining an EV.

"People do understandably have some concerns and questions," Warren said. "These things are new concepts but the more familiar people are with electric vehicles, the more likely they are to want them."

The survey showed many Americans have had



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

very little experience with EVs. More than 80% said they had not been a passenger in an electric-only vehicle in the past year, 65% do not have a friend, relative or co-worker who owns an EV and 41% said they had not seen an EV in their neighborhood in the past year.

Backup cameras for safer driving

CNET.com

All new cars in the United States have been required to have a built-in rearview camera since 2018, and there's a reason: They make driving safer. Whether it's getting a good view while trying to parallel park on the street, or just getting a better sense of your surroundings in a crowded area, a backup camera can make a big difference. The best backup systems have multiple cameras, which allow you to see everything that's happening around your vehicle and monitor your blind spots. And some systems are even designed to integrate a dash cam for a more comprehensive aggregation of information.

Many of us are still driving vehicles made before 2018, but don't fret if you're feeling left out. There are plenty of aftermarket cameras designed for these older vehicles that you can install yourself. All you need to do is attach the backup camera to the rear of your car (preferably as close to the center of the car as possible) and send the footage to a monitor attached to a console display, your dashboard or an inset screen on your rearview mirror, giving you better visibility with no straining to see your blind spots while going in reverse.

Here are three of the CNET Cars team's picks for the best backup cameras in a variety of categories, based on expert opinions and consumer ratings. For some pro tips on picking the right rear camera system for you, check out the full article with more recommendations at CNET.com.

BEST BACKUP CAMERA OVERALL: AUTO-VOX CS-2 WIRELESS BACKUP CAMERA KIT

If you want easy installation and great picture quality, the Auto-Vox CS-2 offers the best of both worlds. As it's a wireless camera, you should have no problem attaching the camera (with built-in wireless transmitter) to the back of your car or mounting the suction-cup-enabled screen on your dashboard. That means you can save money by avoiding installation fees with this wireless backup camera.

While wired cameras are more reliable than wireless ones on the whole, the CS-2 — like the other wireless cameras we've included here — is an exception to that rule. The camera uses digital wireless transmission, which means there's virtually no interference from other signals and no distortion to the image. Plus, the signal is strong, with Auto-Vox recommending the camera for any vehicle less than 32 feet

long. It should be noted that the viewing angle for the CS-2 rearview backup camera is 110 degrees, which may be too narrow for drivers who want a very wide field of vision. However, for parallel and close-quarters parking, 110 degrees works well as it cuts down on the amount of image distortion created on the screen.

The Auto-Vox CS-2 is pricier than some other car backup camera systems, but the high performance and reliability ensure that customers will be satisfied with the purchase.

BEST BACKUP CAMERA ON A BUDGET: ERAPTA ERT01 AUTOMOTIVE BACKUP CAMERA

If your car doesn't have a rearview camera and you're looking for a less expensive alternative, it's hard to beat the eRapta ERT01. This camera easily attaches to a car's license plate and includes a 26-foot RCA cable that can connect to a screen with a compatible output. While there's no screen included with the camera, many vehicles already have mounted screen displays that will work with the ERT01 — just make sure to check yours first, or you may end up needing to buy a separate screen.

As a wired camera, the ERT01 will be more difficult to install than the average wireless camera — but only slightly. User reviews on Amazon say the wired system of the camera is easy to set up, with only a single RCA cable necessary to connect the camera to the screen. The kit also includes a cable to power the camera.

The entire package is incredibly affordable, but that's not the only reason why the ERT01 is Amazon's top-selling backup camera. In addition to being easy to use, it's a durable waterproof camera and has a 149-degree field of vision. Get a crystal-clear image in the dark with the Night Vision feature. All in all, it's a reliable product offered at an affordable price.

BEST BACKUP CAMERA FOR RVs AND CAMPERS: REAR VIEW SAFETY BACKUP CAMERA SYSTEM

Unless you're a professional truck driver, an RV is — by far — larger than any other vehicle you'll ever drive. So it makes sense to spend more and make sure that you, your passengers and the people around you are safe.

Rear View Safety's 4 Camera setup with



The Auto-Vox CS-2 Wireless Backup Camera Kit uses digital wireless transmission. **AUTO-VOX**



The eRapta ERT01 Automotive Backup Camera is a durable waterproof camera. **ERAPTA**



The Rear View Safety Backup Camera System allows RV drivers to get the most complete view of their surroundings. **REAR VIEW SAFETY**

quad view display allows RV drivers to get the most complete view of their surroundings — and they can take everything in all at once. There are four cameras in total: two to be mounted on the rear of the RV (with 130-degree viewing angles) and one for either side (with 120-degree viewing angles). The split-screen monitor can show feeds from all of the cameras at once, or just the feeds the driver chooses to see. In addition to transmitting video, this

RV backup camera system also transmits audio, so even if you've got the air conditioner blasting or some music playing, you'll be aware of the sights and sounds of the road. Plus, the fact that this is a wired camera system ensures the integrity of the transmission — and while you may need professional help to install this rearview camera, some Amazon reviewers reported that they were able to do it themselves without too much trouble.



The 2023 Kia Sportage Hybrid will deliver an ideal mix of fuel efficiency and power. **KIA**

AUTO REVIEW

2023 Kia Sportage Hybrid is a fancy family widget on wheels

By Henry Payne
The Detroit News

The new 2023 Kia Sportage isn't so much a car as it is a Universal Studios theme park attraction: an affordable look at the latest auto technology that you can do with the whole family: huge screens, semi-autonomous driving, red leather, hybrid-electric power.

My Matte Gray tester looks like it was sketched by a Hollywood designer.

The front is all grille, chrome accents and LED light bars — the headlights pushed to the very edges of the fascia. While it must conform to the traditional layout of a four-door SUV, Sportage challenges styling convention. The Kia's rear is nearly as intriguing as the front with a wedding cake construction that separates rear window, taillights, license plate panel and diffuser into four planes. The whole sculpture sits under a fashionable floating-roof design.

For all its design ambition, however, my Sportage tester was quite practical. It sat on high-profile, 18-inch wheels with a useful 8.3 inches of ground clearance should I encounter a typical northern Michigan dirt road. The drive up I-75, however, was anything but typical.

The Sportage has the best semi-autonomous system this side of Caddy's

2023 Kia Sportage Hybrid

Vehicle type: Front engine, front- or all-wheel-drive

Price: \$28,585 (\$38,000 Hybrid SX-Prestige AWD as tested)

Powerplant: 1.6-liter turbocharged inline four mated to twin electric motors and 1.5 kWh lithium-ion battery pack

Power: 227 horsepower, 258 pound-feet torque

Transmission: 6-speed automatic

Performance: 0-60 mph, (8.0 sec., Car and Driver est.)

Fuel economy: 38 city/38 highway/38 combined; range, 521 miles

Super Cruise and Tesla's Autopilot. I'm not making this up. It allowed me to relax, assume a chair-like seating position — only reaching for the steering column when another car got in the way.

The radar brick in the front grille read cars in front of me, slowing down from my set speed of 79 mph as I approached. Assuming the controls, I turned on the blinker, drove around them, then settled back into hands-free driving. The cameras kept the car centered, even in long interstate curves.

The modern cabin is on par with the Sportage's sci-fi exterior and cutting-edge adaptive cruise control.

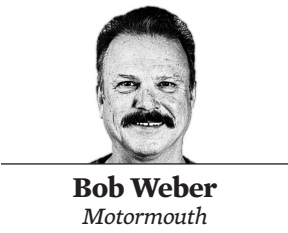
A huge, hoodless curved screen stretches across the dash. It houses two digital 12.5-inch screens that are graphically impressive and configurable. Amid all this electronic wizardry, Sportage is still curiously a generation behind its peers in not offering wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. All of this was wrapped in red leather under a panoramic sunroof that I usually see in a Mercedes. There is lots of room for second-row passengers. Sportage boasts excellent rear legroom, courtesy of a wheelbase stretched by 3.4 inches over that last-gen, and I could tilt the seatback farther to allow myself more headroom.

So high-tech is Sportage that I almost forgot the hybrid drivetrain. The hybrid marries a turbocharged 1.6-liter four-banger with a single electric motor for a healthy 227 horses. It made good acceleration out of stoplights, but when it came to tackling the twisties, the Kia wasn't interested.

The hybrid drivetrain is new to Sportage and claims a combined 38 mpg with all-wheel drive.

But in my week of driving, the Sportage hybrid returned a much more modest figure of 29 mpg. Oh well. That's a rare miss in a vehicle that otherwise exceeds all expectations for the average family SUV.

Which gas should I use?



Q: I bought a 2018 Ford Edge Sport new and have driven it for almost four years. The dealership said to use 87 octane gas so that's what I've been using. My manual says anything from 87 to 91. Where I fill up, 88 octane is usually a little cheaper, although one day it was 40 cents less per gallon. Would there be any harm to switching to 88 gas after all this time of using 87? I've tried to look it up but I'm seeing either yes, I can, or no, don't do it. Just trying to save a few dollars if I can.

— D.S., Glencoe, Minnesota

A: Yes, you can. That 88-octane fuel is 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline. It is called E15.

There is a slight fuel economy trade-off. According to the Department of Energy, you will likely get 4% to 5% fewer miles per gallon with E15.

Q: Here's how to avoid the garage door being opened, especially if the garage is attached and the car is parked in the driveway. To avoid break-ins, I installed a wall switch between the opener motor power and my garage door opener switch on the wall. If you park for the night, turn the power off for the opener. In this way, no one can lift the door even if your car is broken into.

— H.K., Morton Grove, Illinois

A: Not a bad idea. Another option is to install a smart-phone controlled electrical socket adapter on the motor. You can deactivate and reactivate your garage door opener from almost anywhere.

Q: My son is heading to college next month and will be taking his 2010



Eighty-eight-octane fuel is 15% ethanol and 85% gasoline and is called E15. **YURI GRIPAS/ABACA PRESS**

Infiniti EX35 with him so he can drive home for holidays. The car will not be driven often, maybe the occasional trip to the store or to visit his girlfriend. Should I instruct him to take it out once a week? If so, for how long? Any other advice?

— S.W., Lake Zurich, Illinois

A: With the price of gas, he should take public transportation to see his girlfriend and do his shopping. The car will be fine sitting in the school's lot, but short hops may not provide adequate battery charging, so a solar smart charger may help.

Q: In your recent article about the 2014 Toyota Camry you suggest a "fresh new — 2022 — battery" for the key fob. Correction: it's a 2032 battery.

— S.U., Liverpool, New York

A: I knew that, but my fingers didn't cooperate.

Q: I once left my door ajar, leaving a dome light on, thus draining the battery of my 2007 Honda Ridgeline. I knew a jump-start would get me back on the road and allow the alternator to recharge it, but without another car

available for a standard jump-start, I was stuck at home for hours waiting for my roadside assistance to show up. Can you recommend a portable battery jumper I could keep in my truck in case this happens again? It gets ridiculously hot here in Las Vegas, so can said jumper be safe to keep in my truck?

— T.A., Las Vegas

A: There are plenty of portable jump-start devices available both online and at your favorite auto parts or big box store. I would hope the desert heat would not harm them. When you are out and about, you should have no problem getting a good Samaritan to provide a jump-start, so a set of cables is all you need. Leave the power pack in your garage.

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

CELEBRITIES

McKinnon reveals why she left ‘SNL’

From news services

Kate McKinnon was one of several cast members to step away from “Saturday Night Live” earlier this year. It wasn’t an easy decision for McKinnon, who had been a mainstay on the NBC sketch comedy show for 10 years after joining in season 37.

But speaking with Ryan Seacrest and Kelly Ripa on Thursday on “Live With Kelly and Ryan,” she stressed it was time for a change.

“I thought about it for a very long time, and it was very, very hard,” McKinnon said. “All I ever wanted to do in my whole life was be on ‘Saturday Night Live.’ So, I did, I loved it, I had the best decade, and then I was just like ‘my body was tired,’ and I felt like it was time.”

Seacrest then asked what she’ll do now on Saturday nights, but McKinnon is still figuring that out.

“I don’t know what I will do,” she said. “I don’t know that I can watch the show yet because it’s too emo because I miss everyone so much. It’s my family, it’s too emo. So I think I’m just going to tape ‘The Bachelorette’ and watch it.”

McKinnon holds the record as the longest running female cast member in “SNL” history.

In May, Pete Davidson, Aidy Bryant and Kyle Mooney also departed the NBC show.

Kahlo to be subject of musical: Frida Kahlo, whose art is as immediate and unsentimental as her own fight with adversity, will be the subject of an upcoming musical with music by Mexican composer Jaime Lozano and lyrics by playwright Neena Beber.

The musical has the blessing of the Kahlo family — universal rights owners of the Frida Kahlo



Kate McKinnon discussed departing “Saturday Night Live” on “Live With Kelly and Ryan.” JAMIE MCCARTHY/GETTY 2019

estate represented by Alfonso Duran — alongside BTF Media and theatrical producer Valentina Berger. A workshop is planned for 2023.

The planned musical — called “Frida, The Musical” — will follow Kahlo’s journey from Mexico City to Paris and New York, and finally back home to the house of her birth. Producers call it “a full-throated celebration of Kahlo’s joyous spirit of creativity and her unmatched gift for transforming physical and emotional pain into breathtaking beauty.”

Actor Blacque dies: Taurean Blacque, an Emmy-nominated actor who was known for his role as a detective on the 1980s NBC drama series “Hill Street Blues,” has died at age 82. Blacque’s family announced in a statement Thursday that Blacque died in Atlanta following a brief illness.

The actor portrayed the streetwise detective Neal Washington during the entire run of “Hill Street Blues,” from 1981 to 1987. Blacque earned an Emmy nomination for best supporting actor in a drama series in 1981.

Blacque also starred with Vivica Fox on the NBC soap opera “Generations,” and had guest roles on television series such as “Sanford and Son,” “What’s Happening,” “Good Times,” “Taxi” and “The Bob Newhart Show.”

July 23 birthdays: Actor Ronny Cox is 84. Actor Larry Manetti is 75. Singer John Hall is 74. Actor Woody Harrelson is 61. Actor Eriq Lasalle is 60. Guitarist Slash is 57. Musician Alison Krauss is 51. Actor Marlon Wayans is 50. Actor Kathryn Hahn is 49. Actor Stephanie March is 48. Singer Michelle Williams is 43. Actor Daniel Radcliffe is 33.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Pricey clothes giveaway invites cold shoulder

Dear Amy: Some time ago, I gave my good friend “Cheryl” some very expensive designer clothes I thought she would like, but they were too big for her.

With my permission, she showed them to a couple of other people I know, one of whom took the clothing, apparently with delight.

My friend told her that I didn’t want any money for the clothes, but she suggested a bottle of wine would be a nice thank-you.

I have seen this woman in passing many times and not one word of thanks has been given.

I have started giving her the cold shoulder, but I don’t think she notices.

It shouldn’t bother me, but it does, so I was thinking of telling her the reason I’m ignoring her.

I don’t like her anyway! Should I just let it go?
— *Dressed Down*

Dear Down: Your story reminds me of the well-known thought experiment: If you deliver a cold shoulder, but the recipient doesn’t notice, is the shoulder still cold?

I know you understand that when you willingly surrendered these items, they ceased being yours.

Because these clothes came through an intermediary, there is a remote possibility that this recipient does not realize that the clothes actually originated with you.

There is also a possibility that she sold the clothing she received, made a mint, and is now sashaying through town, feeling pretty good about her choices.

You don’t seem to have a positive relationship with her, and so the stakes are

different than if you had a long-standing friendship to worry about.

The next time you see this person, say, “Cheryl told me she passed along some of my clothes to you. I’m wondering how they’re working out?”

Depending on how she answers, you can add: “It was hard to say goodbye to things I love. I was glad they landed in a good home, but honestly, I’m disappointed that you never acknowledged it or thanked me.”

Dear Amy: I am a 30-year-old wife, happily married to my husband “Randy.”

We are decorating our new home in preparation to start a family.

However, I’ve been very busy at work. My mother-in-law, “Kathleen,” offered to help with the house.

I’m very grateful.

However, when I got home from work last week I discovered that Kathleen had decorated an entire wall of our bedroom with close to 20 photos of my husband’s life.

This includes multiple photos of his wedding to his ex-wife, “Sharon,” and from their life together.

I acted out and called her immediately.

Am I wrong for yelling at her over the phone?

Kathleen and Sharon are still very close, and I understand why she included her on the wall, but it still makes me very uncomfortable.

What do you think?
— *Furious*

Dear Furious: The only thing you did wrong here was to “act out” and yell at your mother-in-law on the phone. I understand your

reaction, but you invited her into this task, and when dealing with a new mother-in-law, you should think first and act later, when you are calm and more in control.

In short, in the future, try not to lose it.

I don’t actually understand why your mother-in-law chose to include your husband’s first wedding pictures or photos with his ex on the wall of your bedroom. That is a strange choice. The bedroom is the most intimate room of your house. Exes have no place in the bedroom.

At the least, her choice was in questionable taste. At the most, it was an aggressive maneuver.

It’s your house! Rather than yell at your mother-in-law about this choice, you could have just taken down these photos and placed them in a closet — to be dealt with later.

If you’d have been more in control, you could have stated: “‘Kathleen,’ thank you for your help with the house. I appreciate it. But the only wedding photos I’m going to display in our bedroom are my own.”

Dear Amy: I hate to see all of the letters you run from readers who don’t like you or what you do. Why don’t you run more praising responses?

I love what you do!
— *Fan*

Dear Fan: I receive plenty of compliments and appreciate them all. This one’s for you.

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Nardolillo flipped career script, but confident in filmmaker path

By Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

Before he became a fast-rising filmmaker, Anthony Nardolillo flipped the script on his entire career.

The director never imagined he’d be making movies when he was playing college football at Virginia Tech and Shepherd University more than a decade ago, but he has released his second film, “7th & Union,” with more projects on the way.

“I did not study film. Not until my late 20s did I even have an inkling that I’d be involved in film,” said Nardolillo.

“When I graduated college — I studied finance and accounting — I was traveling for business, and I started to take salsa classes out of my love for salsa music growing up. ... I started dancing professionally, and I started dancing around the world. That brought me to LA.”

It was in Los Angeles that Nardolillo, who is of Puerto Rican heritage, auditioned for his first movie. That project was never made, but he wrote his own script for a 2007 short film, the salsa-centered drama “Mano,” which he co-directed after another filmmaker dropped out.

“That’s when I saw what I wanted to do for the rest of my life,” Nardolillo said.

Fifteen years later, Nardolillo, 44, has “7th & Union” — a drama about an underdog Mexican boxer that drew inspiration from “Rocky” — now streaming on Amazon’s Prime Video.

The film stars popular Mexican actor Omar Chaparro as the fighter Raymundo, who retired from the sport due to injury but returns to the ring to support his struggling immigrant family. The cast also features Edy Ganem (“Devious Maids”), Oscar Torre (“The Haves



Anthony Nardolillo attends the premiere of “7th & Union” during the 2021 Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival in Hollywood, California. EMMA MCINTYRE/GETTY

and the Have Nots”) and Felipe Esparza (“Superstore”).

“Omar is) really known for comedy, and we both ... were up for the challenge of having him lead this dramatic role. It was almost an underdog story in itself, in the actual making of the film,” Nardolillo said. “I was anxious to show audiences his dramatic chops.”

Nardolillo describes “7th & Union” as a character-driven story, and made sure that remained at the movie’s heart when distributors urged him to focus more on the fighting. “I’m like, ‘Rocky’ had one fight,” Nardolillo said. “It was his story. You fell in love with him. That’s what I leaned on with this.”

“Just like in ‘Rocky,’ when he fights that first fight, doesn’t win, but when he fights and it’s still a victory, we’re jumping up. Not because he threw great punches, but because we fell in love with him. We rooted for him. It’s an extreme, 100% parallel. That was the goal with Ray.”

Nardolillo also included English and Spanish dialogue in the film to

bring authenticity to the characters.

Production for “7th & Union” occurred over 17 days in 2020, with Nardolillo saying it was the first film to get approved by Hollywood unions during the pandemic.

Nardolillo’s first movie, “Shine,” about two salsa-dancing brothers from New York City, hit theaters in 2018 and was awarded best feature at HBO’s Urbanworld Film Festival.

He expects his next movie, the heist thriller “Righteous Thieves,” to arrive in the spring, and says he has two unannounced “big studio projects” in the works as well.

Nardolillo says he briefly questioned his future after “Shine” put up modest box office numbers, but is now confident with the path he’s on.

“I was like, ‘You know what, I’m going to go out there and find the next project, use this as a stepping stone to show that I can get a movie made,’” Nardolillo said.

“I think it’s ‘7th and Union’ and this third film that I have now said, ‘OK, this is where I belong.’”

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): A lot can happen very quickly. Luckily, things should fall into place for you without too much effort on your part. You’re better able to solve problems quickly, communicate your feelings in a way that makes sense to others.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Your intuition might be on fire today. You may have multiple hunches that end up coming true, or you might end up in the right place at the right time. The day might feel downright charmed, as others possibly tell you that you said exactly what they were hoping you would say. Look into buying property.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Other people can show up for you in just the right ways. You may be sitting at home hoping that a friend will invite you out or call you, then boom! Someone does just that. People are finally able to satisfy your emotional needs. Take advantage of this time to get to know them better.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Your career situation could take a turn for the better. Keep an eye out for a positive change at your place of work, because you might not have even realized that things could shift so quickly. Now that this has happened, the path you’re on in life probably feels much more exciting.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On July 23, 1982, actor Vic Morrow and two child actors were killed when a helicopter crashed on top of them during filming of a Vietnam War scene for “Twilight Zone: The Movie.”

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mind could be fastened on your own success, while your heart is on someone else’s. You might be simultaneously achieving different wins. Instead of trying to make it a competition, just celebrate together. You’re on each other’s teams. You can both have a great time.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Positive transformations might be inspiring you to be more confident. You may have recently broken a bad habit or learned a new skill, and you’re now feeling the benefits of your hard work. Celebrate yourself for consciously choosing to improve your quality of life and let this feeling shine through you.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It may feel like the spotlight is following you around today. You don’t need attention all the time, but you probably don’t mind getting more of it. Other people might gravitate toward you, people who you know and don’t know. This would be a positive time to schedule a date.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Growth could now lead to trust. You may have been improving yourself, trying to change your mindset for the better. The people in your life have noticed the changes in you. They likely want to give you a chance. Don’t take the opportunities that you’re being given for granted.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Relationships can be deepened over the course of the day. The exact kind of connection doesn’t matter — the important thing is that you want to reach this new depth of trust with someone. The floodgates are opening. You can connect in ways that seemed out of reach.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your comfort zone might be expanding at the moment. That may mean working to make your space more hospitable, or even beginning the process of moving to somewhere nicer. Celebrating with loved ones could be the perfect way to break in your refreshed living space.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Improved communication may make a big difference. Whether you’re speaking up for yourself more or finding a way to gel harmoniously with the people around you, you finally can use your voice to make your life easier. Use this time to share what you couldn’t in the past.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Monetary concerns may take a turn for the better at this time. Blocks can start breaking down in ways that you weren’t anticipating, and you might be in a better position to improve your financial situation. Don’t let them see you sweat. Your value is greater than you think.

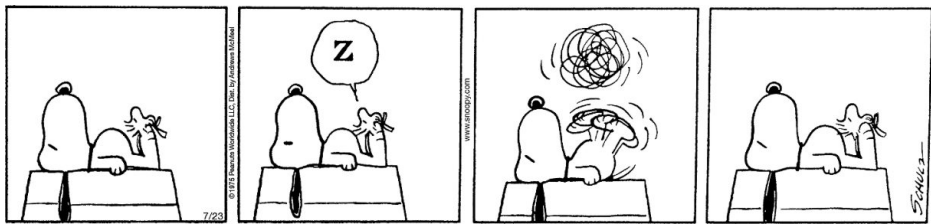
In 1996, at the Atlanta Olympics, Kerri Strug made a heroic final vault despite torn ligaments in her left ankle as the U.S. women gymnasts clinched their first-ever Olympic team gold medal.

In 2011, singer Amy Winehouse, 27, was found dead in her London home.

In 2019, Boris Johnson won the contest to lead Britain’s governing Conservative Party, putting him in line to become the country’s prime minister the following day.

abused more than 1,000 people over a period of six decades.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



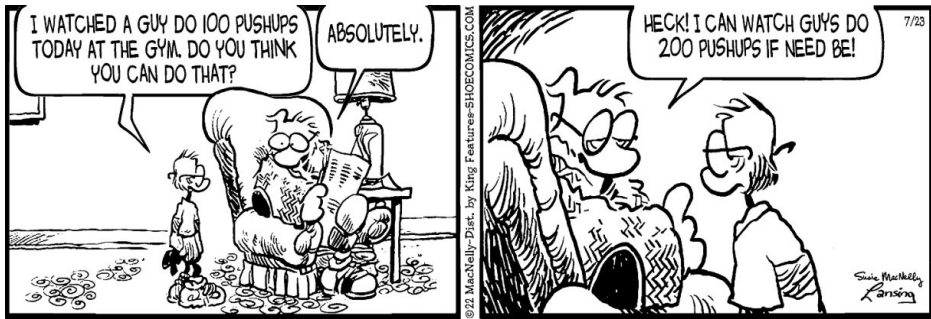
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



Garfield By Jim Davis



Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



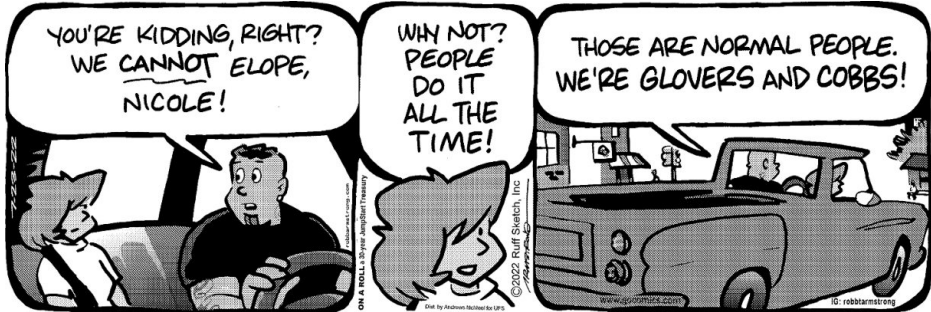
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



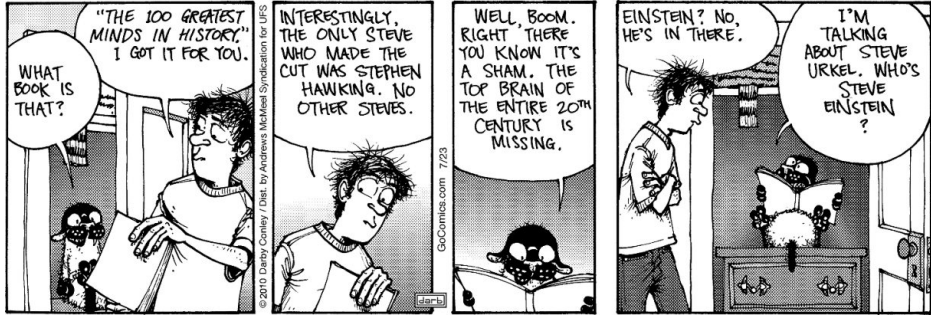
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



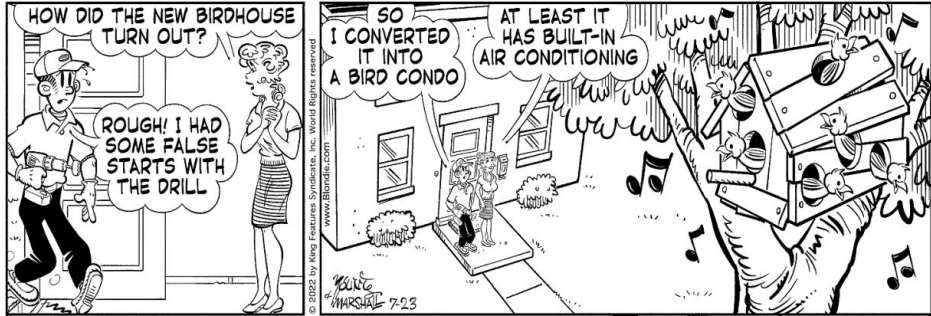
Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



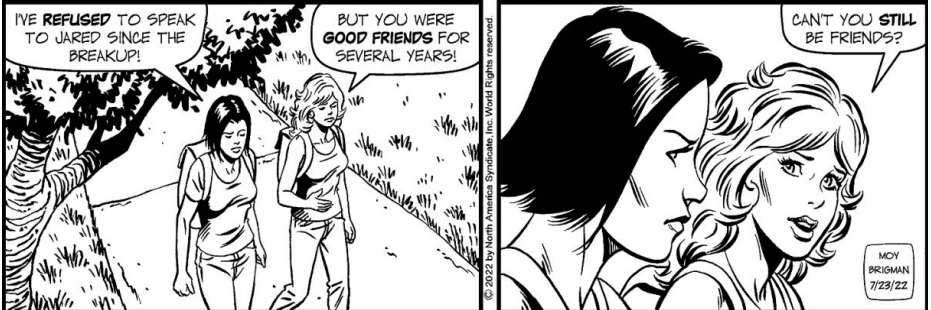
Dilbert By Scott Adams



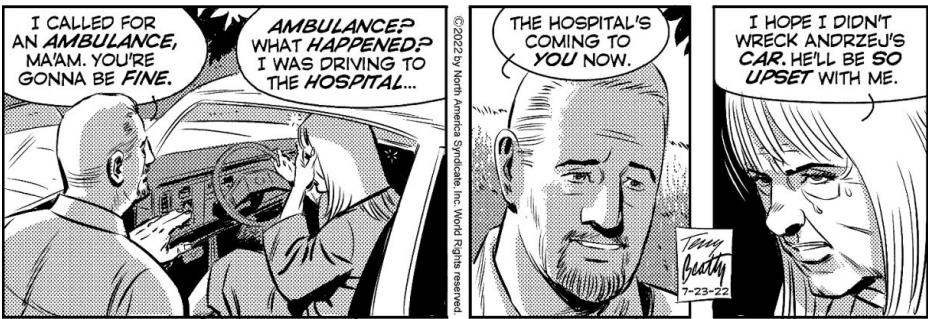
Gil Thorp By Henry Barajas and Rod Whigham



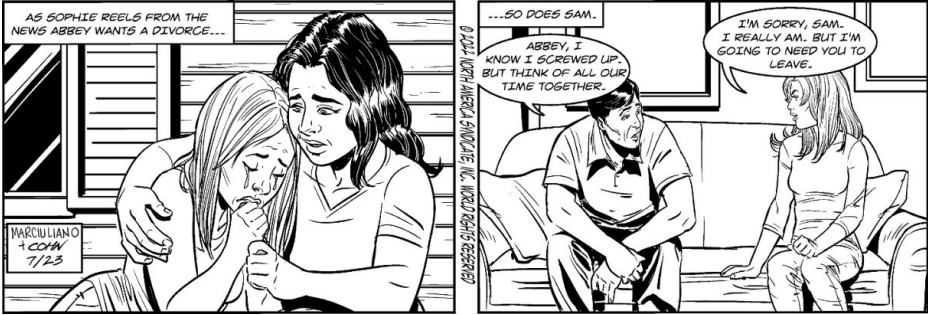
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



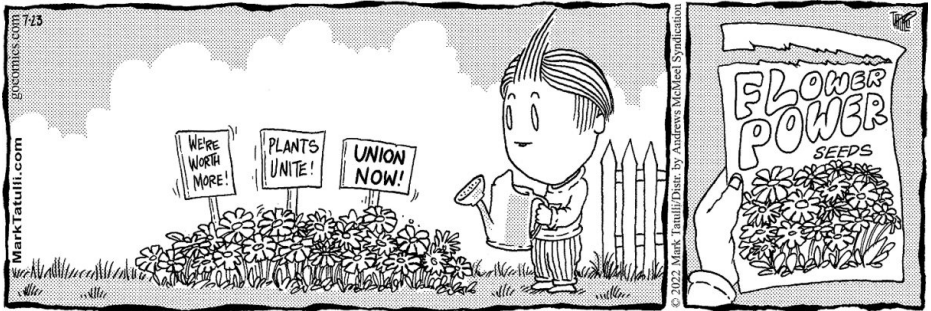
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



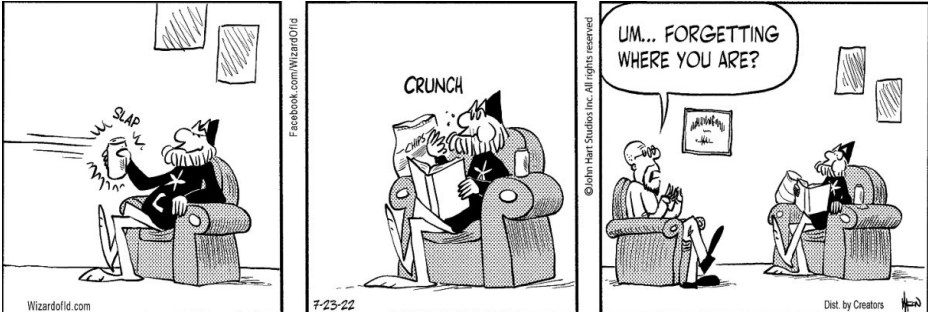
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



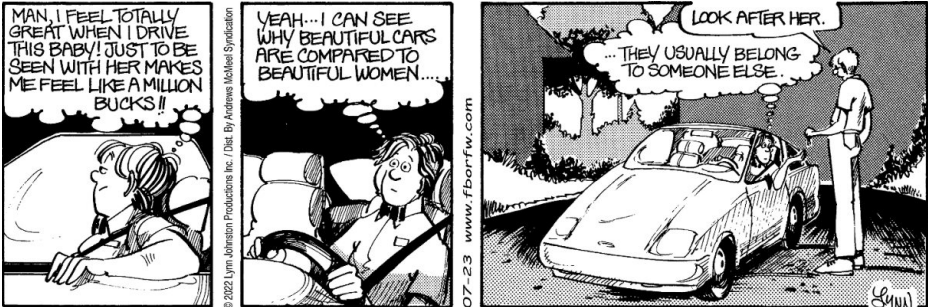
Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



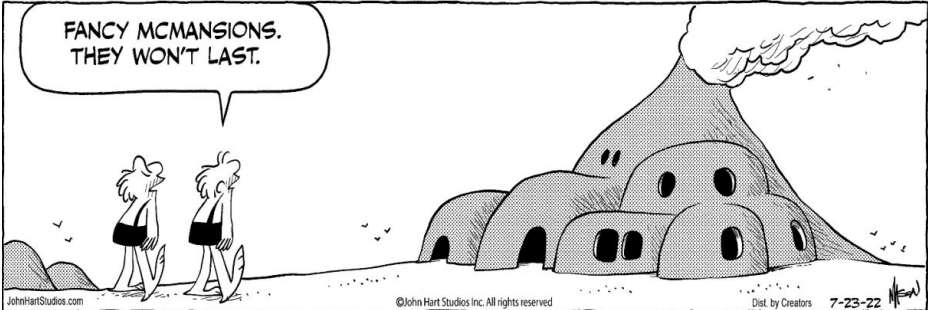
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



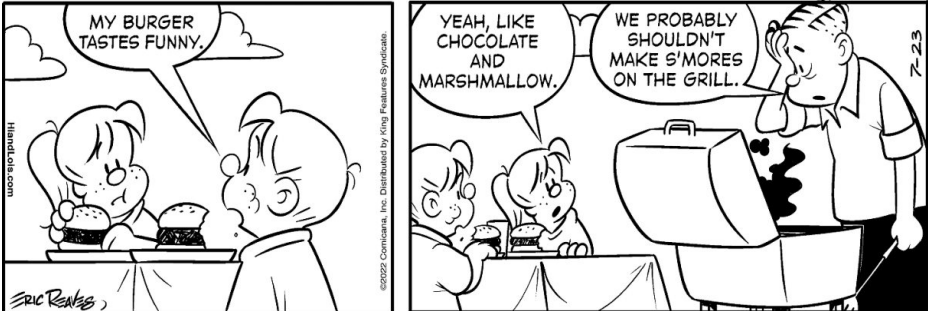
B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



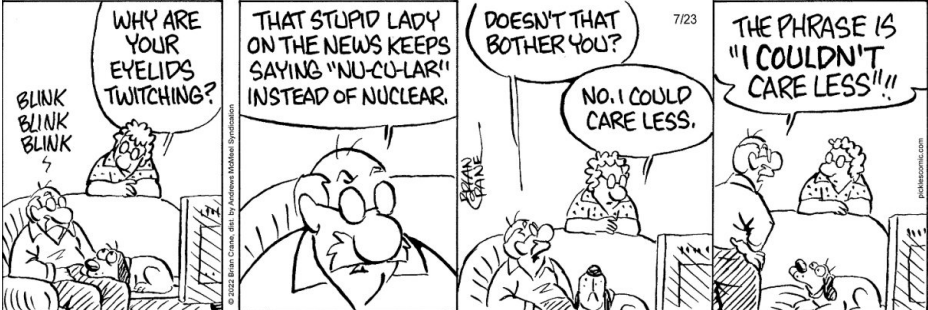
Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



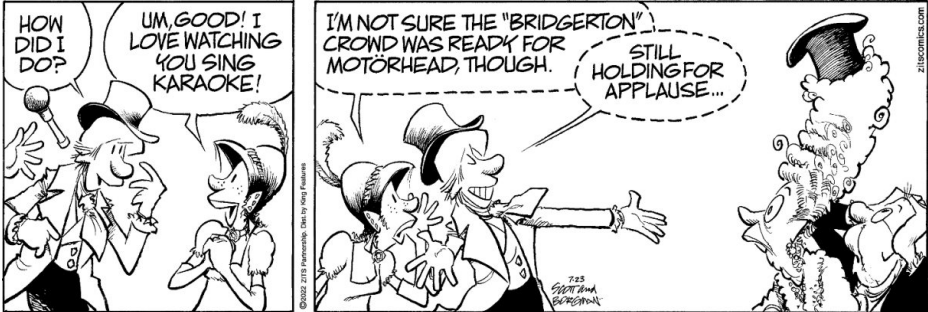
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



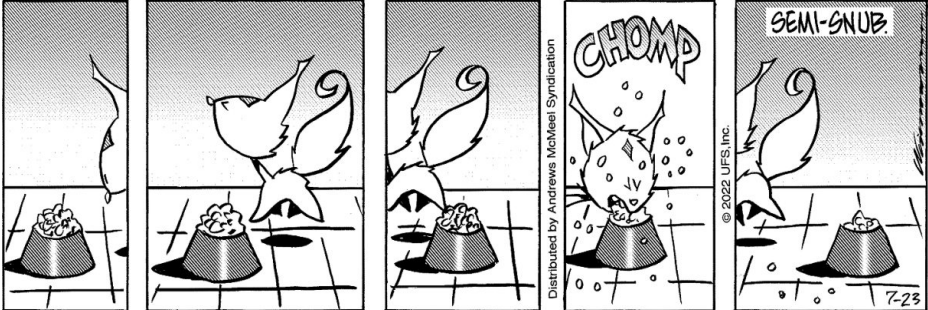
Pickles By Brian Crane



Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Tools that may cause webpages to go down
11 Ersatz
15 "I said what I said"
16 Grilled fruit in tacos al pastor
17 Relaxes
18 Uses one's discretion
19 Cardinal pts.?
20 Racetrack doc
21 Takes the wrong way
23 Confer (upon)
26 Words of concession
27 Second cousin?
30 French region that produces GSM blends
32 Juvenile retort
33 Grenache, Syrah, or Mourvèdre, e.g.
37 Home of the Kraken
40 Streaming option
41 Champur-rado, for one
43 Goddess of peace
44 __ waves
45 Motes
46 Worshipper of the sun god Huitzil-opochtli
49 Neglect
51 Roughly 3.26 light-years
53 "Candidly," initially
54 White lie
57 Brouhahas
58 In person

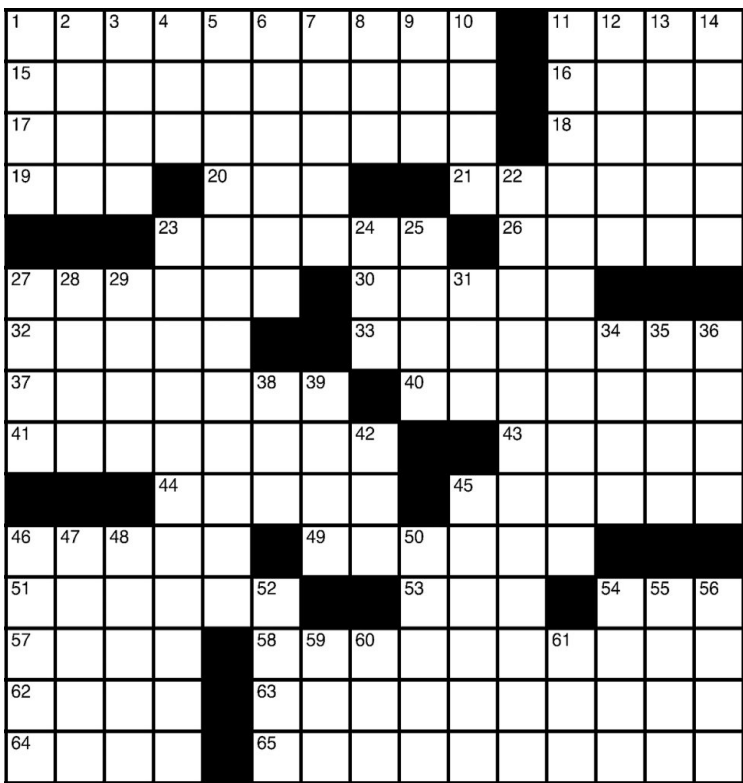
- 62 Ready
63 Protester's medium
64 Set (up)
65 Like maple-glazed bacon

Down

- 1 Pt. of GPS
2 Like some softball teams
3 Rough patches
4 "Ex's & __": Top 10 hit for Elle King
5 Good motto to follow in a National Park
6 Most recent
7 Royal involved in baseball's Pine Tar Incident
8 Canine care org.
9 B&B units

- 10 California-based chocolate brand
11 Like a review that's not very revealing?
12 Semiaquatic mammal
13 Stud fees
14 En __
22 Footwear with overlays
23 Red carpet list
24 NHL legend
25 Question of time
27 Beer-brewing mixture
28 Layered snack
29 Charcuterie fare
31 Elizabeth Acevedo's "__ to the Head Nod"
34 Actor Guinness
35 Sakura color

- 36 Old flames
38 Cap
39 Diana Rigg's first name
42 Fish that symb8olize love and friendship
45 With nuances
46 In pieces
47 "White Teeth" novelist Smith
48 Familiar theme
50 Angioplasty tube
52 Fiscal execs
54 Lot
55 Frozen brand
56 "Sesame Street" roommate
59 "The Hate U Give" actor KJ __
60 Disneyana collectible
61 Celebratory acronym



By Enrique Henestroza Anguiano Tribune Content Agency 7/23/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ K J 9 3
♥ 7 5
♦ 9 5 2
♣ A 7 4 3

WEST

♠ 6
♥ Q J 4
♦ K 6 4
♣ K Q J 10 6 5

EAST

♠ 7 4
♥ 10 9 8 3 2
♦ J 10 8
♣ 9 8 2

SOUTH

♠ A Q 10 8 5 2
♥ A K 6
♦ A Q 7 3
♣ —

The bidding:
South 1 ♠ West 2 ♣ North 2 ♠ East Pass
Opening lead — king of clubs.

The long-range view

At the start of play, it is sometimes possible for declarer to visualize a point much later on when he can develop an impregnable position from which the opponents cannot escape. This type of thinking is usually necessary to lay the groundwork for a successful endplay.

Here is a typical case. Declarer is in six spades, and West leads the king of clubs. South sees at once that the outcome hinges on whether he loses one diamond trick or two.

Declarer's first thought, of course, is that he could rely on a winning diamond finesse to bring home the slam. But this is not a particularly good prospect, considering that West overcalled with two clubs and

is therefore highly likely to have the king of diamonds.

So South starts thinking about how to avoid the diamond finesse. And, somewhere in the course of his cogitations, it occurs to him that he might be able to endplay West and force a favorable return.

Accordingly, South ruffs the king of clubs, cashes the A-K of trump, ruffs another club, cashes the K-A of hearts and ruffs a heart in dummy. Then, having eliminated hearts from both hands, South next eliminates dummy's clubs. He plays the ace of clubs, discarding a diamond, and then, at trick nine, leads dummy's last club, the seven.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

INBGR
SVRIO
SERYSD
GWEILG

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

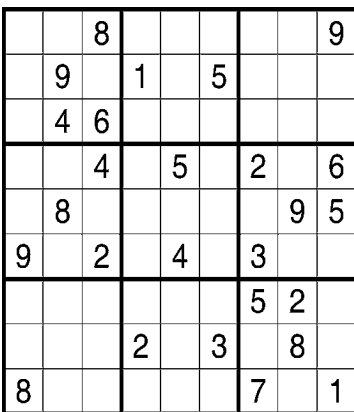
I hope you're hungry, champ. I can't believe how many aces you had today! Whoa! That's a lot of food! Is that all for her?

THE MEAL EATEN BY THE WINNER OF THE TENNIS TOURNAMENT INCLUDED ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

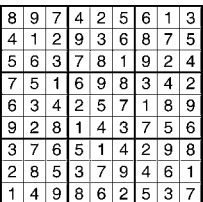
(Answers Monday)
Yesterday's Jumbles: MIDST ONION BRUNCH IMPACT
Answer: The couple stayed at a remote bed & breakfast. They wanted to be — "INN-COMMUNICADO"

TODAY'S SUDOKU

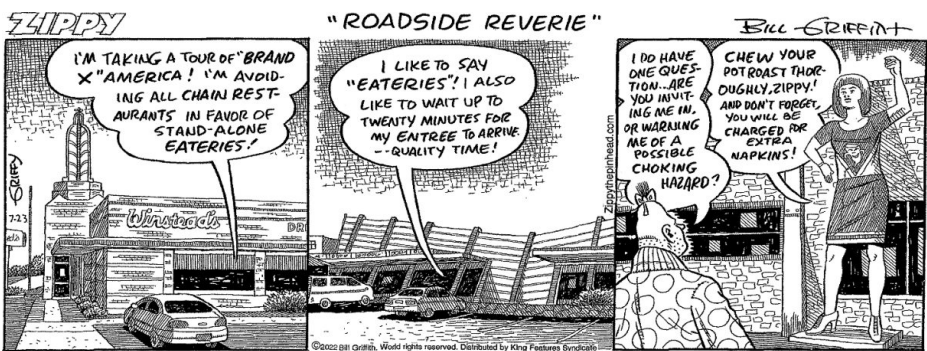


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

1				5	8			3
	8							
9			4	1				8
6						4	2	
	7		9		4		6	
	1	4						7
4				6	7			9
							7	
8			5	4				6

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11/4/17

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
6	3	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
2	8	6	9	3	4	5	6	7
1	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	2	4	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	2	1	3	4	5	6	7
2	4	1	9	6	3	9	8	2
3	6	9	8	9	2	4	1	3

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

A	T	D	V
K	N	I	I
U	M	G	D
S	B	E	R

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 5 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
81-100 = Pro
31-80 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

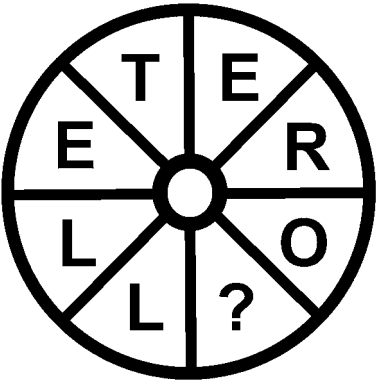
Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS RELATED TO MATH in the grid of letters.

SUM DIGIT MINUS NUMBER DIVIDE

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Australian Animals

049

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

G	C	G	W	E	P	L	A	T	Y	P	U	S	O	O	N	J	L
A	B	A	K	O	O	K	A	B	U	R	R	A	G	U	I	M	I
Z	G	A	B	U	D	G	E	R	I	G	A	R	N	M	H	A	V
K	N	Y	R	M	Q	N	C	K	L	Y	G	N	I	E	P	G	E
S	R	C	R	O	C	O	D	I	L	E	A	N	D	X	L	P	D
L	P	A	S	T	O	O	C	I	D	N	A	B	O	O	O	I	N
I	Y	I	H	T	U	O	M	G	O	R	F	O	B	G	D	E	A
J	T	R	D	S	A	K	V	U	S	E	Q	O	O	Y	U	U	I
U	H	U	E	E	U	I	N	B	L	D	U	R	O	S	M	D	N
F	O	Y	H	B	R	K	P	D	H	I	O	A	T	T	S	I	A
L	N	R	R	T	I	B	O	A	B	L	K	G	A	I	K	L	M
E	B	E	A	A	T	R	L	T	N	G	K	N	K	N	W	A	S
M	V	E	Z	X	W	A	D	S	A	E	A	A	C	G	E	K	A
A	A	D	D	E	R	O	B	I	L	B	Y	K	O	A	L	A	T
C	A	G	L	O	R	B	S	M	F	Z	M	A	C	R	R	R	K
M	E	C	H	I	D	N	A	S	U	I	N	O	V	E	U	C	P
W	A	L	L	A	B	Y	H	W	A	N	L	B	W	E	C	T	A
Q	U	O	L	L	L	Z	K	V	A	C	P	O	S	S	U	M	K

ADDER	DEER	KOALA	RAKALI
BANDICOOT	DINGO	KOOKABURRA	SHARK
BILBY	DOLPHIN	LYREBIRD	SNAKE
BROLGA	DUGONG	MAGPIE	SPIDER
BUDGERIGAR	ECHIDNA	NUMBAT	STINGAREE
CAMEL	EMU	PLATYPUS	TAIPAN
CASSOWARY	FROGMOUTH	POSSUM	TASMANIAN DEVIL
COCKATOO	GLIDER	PYTHON	WALLABY
CROCODILE	GOANNA	QUOKKA	WOMBAT
CURLEW	KANGAROO	QUOLL	YABBY

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/21/19

ACROSS

- 1 Actor on "Law & Order: SVU"
- 5 Film actor Gulager
- 8 Randall or Danza
- 9 "___ Days"
- 12 Loses hair
- 13 Actor Robert ___
- 14 Whitney & Wallach
- 15 Piece of furniture
- 16 Actress/director Lupino
- 18 OB-___; women's doctor
- 19 Stewart & Cryer
- 20 ___ a test; passed easily
- 21 Martin or Cain
- 23 Actress Sally
- 24 Possesses
- 25 Zach's wife on "Little People, Big World"
- 26 Actress Zellweger
- 28 Role on "Bonanza"
- 29 Jillian & Curry
- 30 Like eclairs
- 32 Los Angeles athlete
- 35 Suffix for Nepal or Japan
- 36 "Deal ___ Deal"

- 37 "___ of the Planet of the Apes"; 2011 movie
- 38 "Avengers: Age of ___"; Robert Downey Jr. film
- 40 "___ Is Enough"
- 41 Pompeo or Burstyn
- 42 Prolonged pain
- 43 Playfully shy
- 44 "Sesame Street" fans

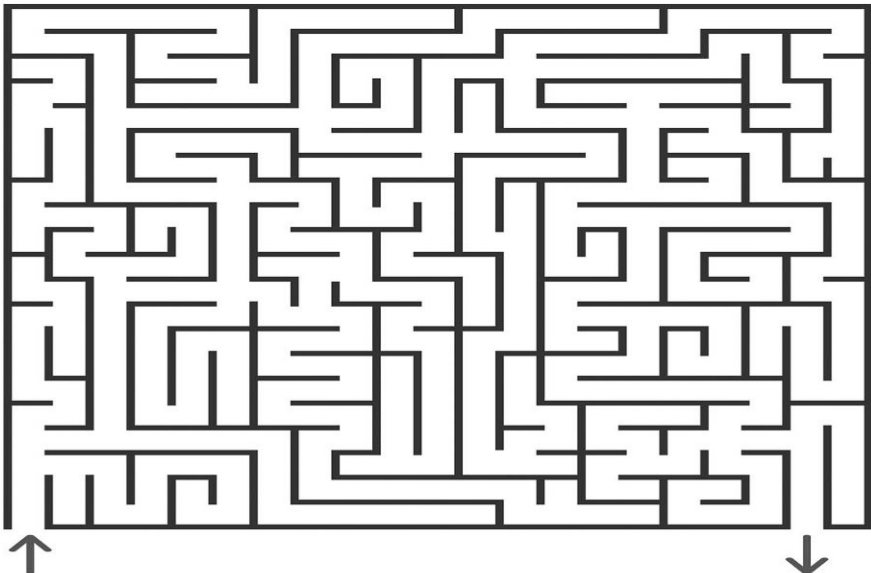
DOWN

- 1 Sophia Loren's birthplace
- 2 Actor on "Chicago Med"
- 3 Finishes
- 4 Cobb & Burrell
- 5 Julia Child & Rachael Ray
- 6 Actress Turner
- 7 AP rival
- 10 "The ___"; popular game show
- 11 Alpine goatherd's song
- 12 Panhandle
- 13 Adams or Johnson
- 15 "My Three ___"; Fred MacMurray series
- 17 Find a sum
- 19 Seymour or Pauley
- 20 Broadcasts
- 22 Lamb bearers
- 23 ___ Network; "Cupcakes Wars" channel
- 25 Columbo's first name
- 26 Actress Charlotte ___
- 27 Follow as a result
- 30 Wry literary style
- 31 "The Situation Room" network
- 33 Blaze residue
- 34 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 36 Nabisco snack
- 37 Puerto ___
- 39 "Sister Wives" network
- 40 "Please Don't ___ the Daisies"

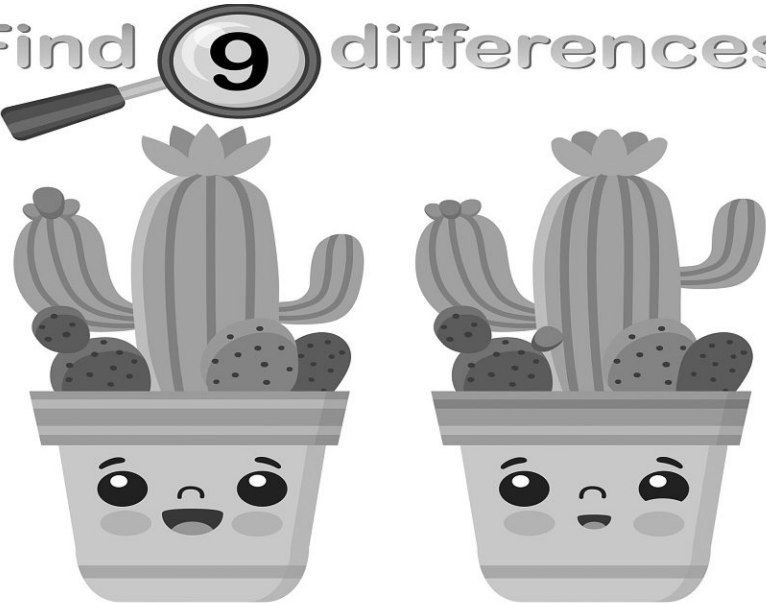
I	C	E	T	C	L	U
T	O	N	Y	H	A	P
B	A	L	D	S	D	E
E	L	I	S	S	O	F
G	Y	N	J	O	N	S
D	E	A	N	F	I	E
O	W	N	S	T	O	R
R	E	N	E	E	H	O
A	N	N	S	I	C	E
E	S	E	O	R	N	O
U	L	T	R	O	N	E
E	L	L	E	N	A	C
C	O	Y	T	O	T	S

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Dogs

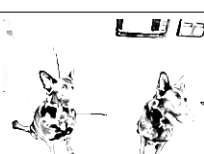
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Connecticut

INVITATION FOR BID

The Human Resources Agency of New Britain, Inc. (HRA) will receive bids for the USDA, Child and Adult Care Food Program CACFP until 3:00 p.m. on the 9th day of August, 2022 at the HRA Conference Room, 180 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT 06053, at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. This project consists of: Food preparation and delivery services for breakfast, lunch and snacks from the kitchen at 180 Clinton Street, New Britain, CT to approximately 322 pre-school children and 48 toddlers at the 180 Clinton Street Early Childhood location. The vendor will also be preparing and delivering breakfast, lunch and snacks for approximately an additional 162 pre-school children and 16 toddlers in total at four other sites. They are as follows: North Oak and Marian Heights facilities in New Britain and 55 South Street and 254 Lake Avenue locations in Bristol CT.

The Bid Documents are available for review and may be obtained at 180 Clinton Street, commencing on the 25th day of July 2022. A tour of the facility is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on the 4th day of August 2022. To be eligible for the tour, all interested bidders must call 860-225-4668 by 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of August 2022 to register.

The Human Resources Agency reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any part of a bid presented, or to invite proposals as its interest may appear. For more information, please contact:
James Frohn
Director of Finance and Sustainability
HRA of New Britain, Inc. 180 Clinton Street
New Britain, CT 06053 860-225-8601 Ext. 2272

7/22 - 7/25/2022 7256357

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
INVITATION TO BID
BID # 319
INSPECTION, TESTING, MAINTENANCE,
REPAIRS, DISPOSAL,
AND PURCHASE OF PORTABLE FIRE
EXTINGUISHERS AND FIRE SUPPRESSION
SYSTEMS.**

Sealed bids for the inspection, testing, maintenance, repairs, disposal, and purchase of various types of portable fire extinguishers (to include parts and refills/recharges) and fire suppression systems will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032 until 11:30 A.M. on August 9, 2022, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid specifications may be obtained at the Finance Department between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so. Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.

The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.

Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.
7/23/2022 7254396

**TOWN OF FARMINGTON, CT
INVITATION TO BID
BID # 320
PEST CONTROL SERVICES**

Sealed bids for Pest Control Services will be accepted by the Town of Farmington at the Town Finance Office, Farmington Town Hall, One Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT 06032 until 11:00 A.M. on August 9, 2022, at which time and place said bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid specifications may be obtained at the Finance Department between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays.

The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items or the total bid and to waive any or all informalities or technical defects, if it is deemed by the Town to be in its best interest to do so. Bids will not be accepted by facsimile or e-mail.

The successful bidder is required to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972, Executive Orders 3, 17, 11246, 11375, 11478 and, if applicable, the Connecticut Fair Employment Practice Law.
7/23/2022 7254374

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WEATHER

SATURDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny and hot, briefly turning less humid in the afternoon. West to southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

HIGH 96°
LOW 72°

SUNDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly sunny in the morning, partly sunny in the afternoon, hot and very humid.

HIGH 97°
LOW 75°

MONDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mixed clouds and sunshine, hot and very humid, showers and thunderstorms are possible late.

HIGH 90°
LOW 70°

TUESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and very warm, not as humid.

HIGH 87°
LOW 65°

WEDNESDAY

SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

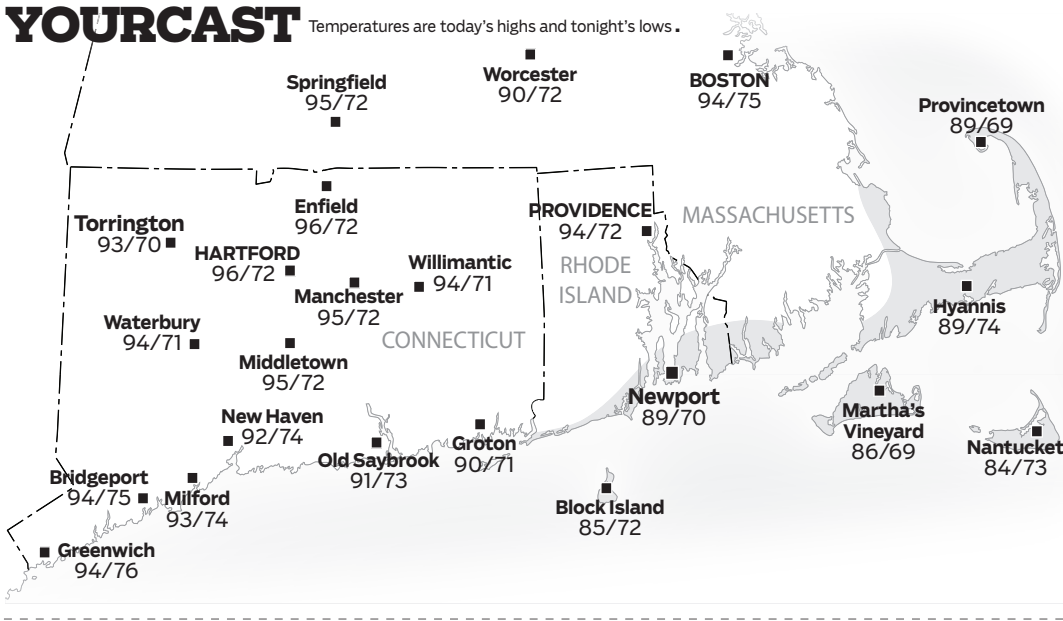
Partly to mostly sunny, very warm, and more humid.

HIGH 88°
LOW 69°

CONNECTICUT WEATHER

For the latest weather news throughout your day.

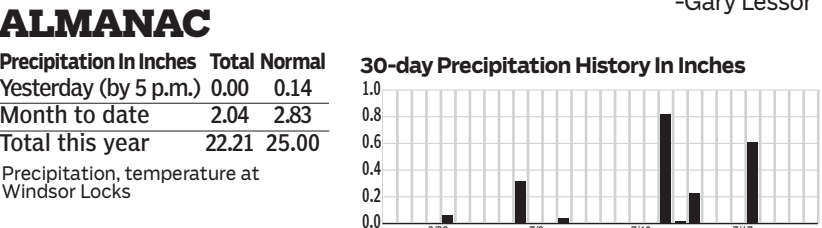
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OUTLOOK

Once again on Saturday, the humidity will be dropping below 60 degrees for a time during the day in northern portions of the state, but temperatures will remain hot with highs in the 90s under a mostly sunny sky. It will turn more humid again this evening and especially tonight with the dew point in the 60s. It should remain in the 60s on Sunday before climbing into the oppressive 70s Sunday night and during Monday. A cold front could produce a few showers and thunderstorms Monday afternoon and Tuesday. The frontal passage will break the current heat wave.

-Gary Lessor



Air Quality Forecast For Today

Air Quality Today	Ultraviolet index Today	Pollen Count Yesterday	Heat Index Today
Moderate 95	Very high 9	Moderate Grass	97°

Today

Tomorrow

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	5:36 a.m.	5:37 a.m.
Sunset	8:19 p.m.	8:18 p.m.
Moonrise	1:18 a.m.	1:51 a.m.
Moonset	4:36 p.m.	5:37 p.m.

Moon Phase

New July 28

First Aug 5

Full Aug 11

Last Aug 19

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	8:11 a.m. 8:27 p.m.	12:46 a.m. 12:35 p.m.	77°
Saybrook Jetty	7:34 a.m. 8:01 p.m.	1:39 a.m. 1:28 p.m.	75°
Connecticut River at Portland	10:17 a.m. 10:44 p.m.	5:25 a.m. 5:14 p.m.	
Madison	7:51 a.m. 8:07 p.m.	1:42 a.m. 1:45 p.m.	76°
New Haven	8:11 a.m. 8:27 p.m.	2:06 a.m. 2:09 p.m.	76°
Stamford	8:15 a.m. 8:31 p.m.	2:20 a.m. 2:23 p.m.	73°

River Stage at Hartford: 1.76 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
	MSunny	MSunny	MSunny
Wind	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-10	SW, 5-15
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	3-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Friday	94 at 3:30 p.m.	71 at 3:36 a.m.
Normal for date	86	64
Record for date	103 in 2011	52 in 1974
A year ago	83	58
Range this year	97	-2

Cooling Degree Days

Season	Normal	Last Season
For Jan 1 - July 22	491	404 465

30-day Temperature History

Atmosphere

High	Low
Barometer	29.87 at 10 a.m. 29.72 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	72° at 12 a.m. 57° at 4 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor 89 64 S
Burlington 92 70 PC
Caribou 86 64 PC
Concord 93 64 S
Montpelier 87 63 PC
MT. Wash. 60 53 PC
Portland 87 64 S
Woods Hole 86 69 S

Baltimore 96 74 S
Bismarck 81 52 PC
Boise 93 61 S
Buffalo 88 68 PC
Charleston 91 76 PC
Cincinnati 96 71 PC
Cleveland 88 70 PC
Indianapolis 92 73 PC
Jacksonville 92 74 PC
Las Vegas 108 84 PC
Miami Beach 88 82 S
Milwaukee 86 70 PC

Nashville 99 75 PC
New Orleans 91 78 T
New York 95 78 S
Okla. City 101 75 S
Omaha 100 71 S
Orlando 93 74 PC
Pittsburgh 93 69 PC
Raleigh 97 75 PC
St. Louis 102 81 S
Salt Lake City 97 73 PC
San Antonio 100 78 PC
San Diego 73 67 PC

San Juan 88 78 SH
Tucson 103 79 PC
Amsterdam 76 59 PC
Athens 99 78 S
Bangkok 88 77 SH
Barbados 83 76 S
Beijing 91 72 SH
Beirut 86 78 S
Berlin 76 53 SH
Bermuda 83 78 PC

Budapest 103 74 PC
Buenos Aires 66 57 PC
Cairo 103 71 S
Cancun 91 78 PC
Dubai 104 89 S
Dublin 72 62 SH
Edinburgh 70 61 SH
Helsinki 73 59 SH
Hong Kong 90 79 S
Istanbul 91 69 S
Jerusalem 85 66 S
Johannesburg 62 45 PC
Singapore 89 77 SH

Kingston 89 74 SH
Lisbon 89 64 S
London 81 63 PC
Madrid 100 70 S
Mexico City 74 53 SH
Milan 96 73 PC
Montreal 85 71 SH
Moscow 85 64 PC
Nassau 87 81 S
New Delhi 91 78 SH
Paris 84 63 PC
Prague 84 61 SH
Rio de Janeiro 79 68 S
Rome 97 72 S
Seoul 82 70 SH

Stockholm 67 57 SH
Sydney 62 51 SH
Tel Aviv 89 75 S
Tokyo 91 76 C
Toronto 84 72 PC
Vancouver 72 58 S
Warsaw 92 61 SH

KEY: S Sunny, C Cloudy, PC Partly Cloudy, R Rain, SH Showers, SN Snow, SF Snow Flurries, T T-storms

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SPORTS

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RED SOX

Big Papi still awestruck as induction into Hall looms

By John Kekis
Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Six months after he got one of the most amazing phone calls in sports, David Ortiz is still awestruck at his good fortune.

The former Boston Red Sox slugger known affectionately as Big Papi will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Sunday.

Maybe then baseball's highest honor will finally sink in.

"I still can't believe it. This is like a dream



Former Red Sox slugger David Ortiz, who hit 541 home runs in 20 big-league seasons and helped Boston win three World Series, will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Sunday. **CHARLES KRUPA/AP**

come true," the 46-year-old Ortiz said. "I grew up tough, man. I grew up tough. My childhood wasn't that easy, but I had great parents to guide me and keep me away from trouble."

Ortiz hit 541 home runs in 20 big-league

Turn to Sox, Page 2

YANKEES

Orioles aren't the schedule break they used to be for NY

By Kristie Ackert
New York Daily News

BALTIMORE — The Yankees couldn't ask for a better landing spot to put their nightmarish trip to Houston out of their minds. After getting swept in a double-header at Minute Maid on Thursday night, they have a chance to regroup in their Southern home away from the Bronx this weekend. Camden Yards has been among the friendliest road stops for them.

With a 4-9 record against the Orioles so far this season, this may not be the soft part of the schedule that it has been in the past. Obviously, the Yankees rolled into Camden Yards with the best record in baseball at 64-30 and a huge lead in the division. They have a 12-game lead over the Rays and are

17 ahead of the Orioles.

But handling the Orioles is crucial to staying in that top spot in the American League and winning home-field advantage for the playoffs. The importance of that was emphasized Thursday when they lost two against their likely playoff foes in Houston.

"That's big time. That's what we're striving for, especially how well we've been playing at home, how rowdy our fans are and how much they support us," Yankees slugger Aaron Judge said. "It was something that was definitely on our mind. But like I said, if we just focus on what we need to do, and this team does, you know, we'll take care of that part."

Turn to Yankees, Page 2

UCONN ATHLETICS



UConn athletic director David Benedict continues to keep an eye out for the Huskies' place in the shifting landscape of college athletics. **JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

STANDING PAT IN SHIFTING WORLD

Amid new conference realignment, UConn's current position still makes the most sense, AD David Benedict says

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

The landscape of college athletics is once again moving underfoot, as it has been almost without respite for decades.

With those tremors and shifts, there is a new set of questions and speculation about where UConn, with its unique set of strengths and shortcomings, will fit in the future. While there is nothing to indicate a move from its current affiliation with the Big East is on the horizon, the move of Southern California and UCLA to the Big Ten, of Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC creates possibility — or hope? — of a slot opening up into which UConn could fit.

"I don't think this is anything that UConn should get all that excited about, or worried about," said Andrew Zimbalist, economics professor at Smith College and a leading expert on sports business. "Obviously, they want to look at options, but I think the kind of options they will have will have a marginal impact rather than a major impact. They're pretty secure, relative to the football schools in the Power Five other than the SEC and the Big Ten. They all have massive alterations going forward in their financial life. I don't think UConn is going to be facing anything like that."

After the breakup of the original Big East in 2013, football-playing schools went one way, into the American Athletic Conference, and basketball-only schools formed their own conference and bought the Big East name. After seven years, UConn, which had been passed over in several Power Five conference expansions, made the proactive move of rejoining many of their former rivals in the new Big East and going independent in football.

In their first season as an independent, UConn went 1-11. The men's basketball program has made the NCAA Tournament two years in a row, the women's program has won the conference championship both



UConn's R.J. Cole drives against Villanova's Brandon Slater in a game in February. The Huskies' return to the Big East revived some rivalries. **DERIK HAMILTON/AP**

years and reached the Final Four.

"Based on the tenor of the conversation within our fan base, I think we're positioned the best we possibly can be based on our options," UConn AD David Benedict said. "People feel very good about the return to the Big East and what that's meant to our programs and our student athletes and the return of rivalry games, and in terms of competitiveness, it's done nothing but help us. For the majority of our sports, it's been great. For football, independence is the best opportunity on the table at this point in time."

Texas and Oklahoma announced their moves a year ago. USC and UCLA announced their plans this summer, making the Big Ten a coast-to-coast megaconference. This leaves the Pac 12, Big 12 and ACC in flux. Do leagues merge? Or expand? Or stand pat

with fewer teams and, presumably, a reduction of TV revenue as a result?

"One thing is for sure: The Big 12 is open for business," new commissioner Brett Yormark told reporters at the Big 12's media day. "We will leave no stone unturned to drive value for the conference."

At the ACC's media day this week, commissioner Jim Phillips said "everything is on the table," including possible expansion.

"In the end, it has to add value to your conference," Phillips said. "You can define value in different ways. You can define value from an academic standpoint. You can define value about athletic success and competitiveness. Are they an AAU research institution? You can also define it by money."

Turn to UConn, Page 2

GOLF EVIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Henderson on record pace, leads tourney by 3 strokes

Associated Press

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, France — Brooke Henderson is setting the pace in record-breaking style at the Evian Championship.

The Canadian shot a second straight 7-under 64 to take a three-stroke lead after the second round of the fourth major of the year on Friday.

She is the first player in the history of the U.S. LPGA to begin a major with two rounds of 64 or lower.

And Henderson, who is 14 under for the tournament, said there's a reason for her fast start.

"I've been having a lot of crêpes in France," she said, smiling. "To keep the momentum going, I'd better have some more."

Nelly Korda is the only player in the 132-woman field within four shots of Henderson.

The Olympic champion and former No. 1 was three shots back, having finished birdie-eagle at the picturesque Evian Resort Golf Club to shoot 67.

It is Korda's fifth event since returning to competitive action after more than four months out after surgery for a blood clot in one arm.

South Korean players Sei Young Kim (65) and So Yeon Ryu (66) were tied for third at 9 under, five shots behind Henderson. Among the six players on 8 under was a Frenchwoman Perrine Delacour after her round of 68.

Henderson, who won her only major title at the Women's PGA Championship in 2016, started her afternoon round four shots behind Korda — who was part of the morning wave — and birdied her first two holes.

There was a bogey at No. 3 and a birdie at No. 9, before Henderson went on a roll over the back nine. She had back-to-back birdies from No. 11 and then made putts from 15 feet, 8 feet and 10 feet for birdies on the final three holes.

"It feels really nice to get off to a fast start in a major championship," Henderson said. "It's been awhile since I've been able to do that. To get it this far under par is really awesome, and I feel like I'm hitting the ball really well, which is nice, and making some putts."

The highlight of Korda's round was her second shot at the par-5 18th, a high fade that landed in the middle of the green and rolled to inside 3 feet from the cup. She made no mistake with the putt for eagle.

Korda said she has been suffering from jet lag and barely slept ahead of the early start to her second round, which opened with what she described as 10 "stress-free" pars.

Like Henderson, Korda has won one major championship — last year's PGA Championship — and was No. 1 in the world when she stopped playing in February.

Now she is No. 3 and is coming off three top-10 finishes in that little stretch since her return.

First-round leader Ayaka Furue shot 72, nine strokes worse than Thursday, and was in a five-way tie at 7 under.



Brooke Henderson, of Canada, shot a second straight 7-under 64 to take a three-stroke lead after the second round of the fourth major of the year Friday. **STUART FRANKLIN/GETTY**

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Red Sox: Blue Jays, Saturday, 4 p.m.; Blue Jays, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Guardians, Monday, 7 p.m.
Yankees: at Orioles, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Orioles, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; at Mets, Tuesday, 1 p.m.
Mets: Padres, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Padres, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Yankees, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Yard Goats: at Binghamton, Saturday, 6:30 p.m.; at Binghamton, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Portland, Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Sun: at Lynx, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Storm, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Sky, July 31, 1 p.m.
Hartford Athletic: Pittsburgh, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Rio Grande, Wednesday, 8:30 p.m.; Birmingham, July 30, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO

ACTION SPORTS

1 p.m.: X Games (Live) ABC
2 p.m.: Cornhole ACL Pro Shootout. (Live) CBS
8 p.m.: X Games BMX Best Trick. (Live) ESPN2
AUTO RACING
6:55 a.m.: Formula 1 France Grand Prix, Practice 3. (Live) ESPN2
8:45 a.m.: W Series France. (Live) ESPN
9:30 a.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Series Explore The Pocono Mountains 225, Qualifying. (Live) USA
9:55 a.m.: Formula 1 France Grand Prix, Qualifying. (Live) ESPN2
Noon: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series CRC Brakleen 150. (Live) FOX
2:30 p.m.: NASCAR Cup M&M's Fan Appreciation 400, Qualifying. (Live) USA
4 p.m.: IndyCar Hy-Vee-deals.com 250. (Live) NBC
5 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Series Explore The Pocono Mountains 225. (Live) USA
8 p.m.: Camping World SRX Series. (Live) CBS

BASEBALL

Noon: Futures Collegiate League: Nashua Silver Knights at Brockton Rox. (Live) NESN
1 p.m.: Guardians at White Sox. (Live) MLB
4 p.m.: Blue Jays at Red Sox. (Live) NESN. Radio: 1080
4 p.m.: Astros at Mariners. (Live) FS1
7 p.m.: Padres at Mets. (Live) WPIX. Radio: 880
7 p.m.: Yankees at Orioles. (Live) YES. Radio: 97.9
9 p.m.: Rangers at Athletics. (Live) FS1

BASKETBALL

Noon: The Basketball Tournament Second Round. (Live) ESPN
2 p.m.: The Basketball Tournament Second Round. (Live) ESPN
7 p.m.: WNBA Sky at Liberty. (Live) NBA
10 p.m.: WNBA Sparks at Aces. (Live) NBA

BICYCLING

8 a.m.: Tour de France Stage 20. (Live) NBC

EQUESTRIAN

1 p.m.: Saratoga. (Live) FS1
5 p.m.: Breeders' Cup Challenge Series. (Live) CNBC

FOOTBALL

2:30 a.m.: West Coast Eagles vs St. Kilda Saints. (Live) FSP
GOLF
6 a.m.: Evian Championship Third Round. (Live) GOLF
9 a.m.: Senior Open Championship Third Round. (Live) GOLF
Noon: Senior Open Championship Third Round. (Live) NBC
1 p.m.: 3M Open, Third Round. (Live) GOLF
3 p.m.: 3M Open, Third Round. (Live) CBS
3 p.m.: U.S. Girls' Junior, Championship Match. (Live) GOLF
5:30 a.m.: Evian Championship Final Round. (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY

3 p.m.: 3ICE Event 6. (Live) CBSSN
LACROSSE
12:30 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Team Gold vs. Team Purple. (Live) ESPN
3 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Team Orange vs. Team Blue. (Live) ESPN

RUGBY

11:58 p.m.: NRL Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs vs Gold Coast Titans. (Live) FSP

SOCCER

6 a.m.: Club Friendly: Paris Saint-Germain vs Urawa Red Diamonds. (Live) CBSSN
1:30 p.m.: Canadian Premier League FC Edmonton at HFX Wanderers FC. (Live) FSP
2:30 p.m.: UEFA Women's EURO Fourth Quarterfinal France vs Netherlands. (Live) ESPN2
4:30 p.m.: Canadian Premier League Valour FC at Forge FC. (Live) FSP
6:30 p.m.: International Friendly Manchester City vs Bayern Mynchen. (Live) ESPN
7:30 p.m.: Mexicano Primera División Cruz Azul vs. Puebla. (Live) UNI
10 p.m.: Mexico Primera Division Tijuana vs América. (Live) FSP
10 p.m.: Mexicano Primera División Tigres UANL vs. Atlas. (Live) UNI

TRACK AND FIELD

2 p.m.: World Athletics Championships. (Live) NBC
8 p.m.: World Athletics Championships. (Live) CNBC
9 p.m.: World Athletics Championships. (Live) NBC

LOCAL BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEGION

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS

CT Legion Tournament
First Round—Pod Championship (Game 2)
Northern Bracket
Pod A
ELLINGTON 3, WEST HARTFORD 2
Southern Bracket
Pod G
WEST HAVEN 6, TRUMBULL 4

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

CT Legion **Tournament**—Super Regionals
Middletown Regional (at Palmer Field)
Ellington vs. West Haven, 4p.m.
Danbury vs. Middletown, 7p.m.
Bristol Regional (at Muzzy Field)
Stamford vs. Willimantic, 11:30a.m.
Greenwich vs. Waterford, 2p.m.

CONNECTICUT TWILIGHT LEAGUE

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS

ORIOLES 9, ANGELS 2
Note: Spang went 6innings, allowing 2 earned runs with 9strikeouts. McNellis was 2-for-3with 2home runs, 8RBI and Keefeer was 2-for-2with a walk, 1RBI.
ROCKIES AT BLACK SOX, PPD.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

KNIGHTS AT PATRIOTS, LATE
AFTERSHOCK AT ORIOLES, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Black Sox at Patriots, 11a.m.

GREATER HARTFORD TWILIGHT LEAGUE

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS

PEOPLES 1, ORIOLES 0
Note: In the top of the 7th, Rami Jadallah singled, reached 2nd on ground out, stole 3rd and scored the go-ahead run on an error. Eric Malinowski tossed a 3-hit shut-out with 5 strikeouts for the win.
GREENERS 13, CARDINALS 7

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

JETS AT GREENERS, LATE
EXPOS AT CARDINALS, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Graphics at Greeners, 5p.m.

PETE KOKINIS BASEBALL LEAGUE

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS

19U
NEW BRITAIN PARKS AND REC 4,

FARMINGTON 0
Note: Jonar Rodriguez tossed a 4-hit shutout with 3strikeouts. 1walk to pick up the win. Tyler Czerchma was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Aaron Goldstein was 2-for-3for Farmington.
ROCKY HILL 6, AHERN WHALEN-MIDDLETOWN 4
Note: Dylan Barilla and Athar Mehmood each had 2 hits, 1RBI for Rocky Hill. Mehmood also picked up the win on the mound, striking out 9 over 6innings of work.

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

19U
ROCKY HILL AT COPPERHEADS=TORRINGTON, LATE
16U
COPPERHEADS=TORRINGTON AT WEST HARTFORD THUNDER, LATE
14U
AHERN WHALEN-MIDDLETOWN AT NEWINGTON RAIDERS, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

19u: Copperheads-Torrington at Rocky Hill (2), 11a.m.; Farmington at Plainville Devils, 1p.m.; Ahern Whalen-Middletown at Plainville Devils, 3:30p.m.
16u: West Hartford Thunder at Copperheads-Torrington, 9:30a.m.; Ahern Whalen-Middletown at Stafford Royals, 1p.m.; Nor'Easters-Newington at Copperheads-Torrington, 5:30p.m.
14u: CT Bulldogs-Wethersfield at Farmington, noon

EASTERN WETHERS

Standings		W	L	PCT	GB
Northeast		54	33	.621	—
Hartford		53	34	.609	1
Somerset		43	44	.494	11
Portland		40	47	.460	14
Reading		38	49	.437	16
New Hampshire		33	54	.379	21
Binghamton		33	54	.379	21
Southwest		W	L	PCT	GB
Erie		50	36	.581	—
Akron		45	40	.529	4.5
Richmond		46	41	.529	4.5
Altoona		45	42	.517	5.5
Bowie		38	48	.442	12
Harrisburg		35	52	.402	15.5

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

HARTFORD AT BINGHAMTON, LATE
BOWIE AT RICHMOND, LATE
ALTOONA AT HARRISBURG, LATE
READING AT SOMERSET, LATE
PORTLAND AT NEW HAMPSHIRE, LATE
ERIE AT AKRON, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE

Altoona at Harrisburg, 6p.m.
Bowie at Richmond, 6p.m.
Hartford at Binghamton, 6:30p.m.
Reading at Somerset, 7p.m.
Portland at New Hampshire, 7p.m.
Erie at Akron, 7p.m.

WNBA

Former UConn star Collier returns to practice with Lynx after giving birth to her first child

By Kels Dayton

Sports Editor

UConn fans won't get to see former Husky Napheesa Collier take the court when the Connecticut Sun face off with the Minnesota Lynx over the weekend, but if Collier gets her way, they may have a chance by season's end.

Collier returned to practice with the Lynx on Wednesday for the first time since she gave birth to her first child, daughter Mila on May 25.

Lynx head coach Cheryl Reeve told the Star Tribune that Collier took part in some light five-on-zero work, but that she has a ways to go to get into game shape.

"The heart rate is what the biggest challenge is," Reeve told the Tribune before the teams met Friday night at the Target Center, where they will meet again Sunday night. "That and legs. I mean, her legs aren't anywhere

near ready. So she progressed a little bit."

Collier, 25, who helped lead UConn to four consecutive Final Fours and a national championship in 2016, has flourished in her three seasons in the WNBA.

She's a two-time All-Star, took home Rookie of the Year honors in 2019 and was named to both the All-WNBA Second Team and the All-WNBA Defensive Second Team in 2020.

For her career, Collier is averaging 14.9 points, 7.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game.

Now, she looks to return to the prime of a brilliant career after having given birth, a daunting task that has faced many WNBA stars.

Collier was featured on the most recent cover of SLAM Magazine with the headline: "Napheesa Collier: Superwoman."



UConn's Jack Zergiotis is sacked by Clemson's Tyler Davis in November in Clemson, S.C. As a football independent, UConn can schedule a variety of Power Five schools.

BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

UConn

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UConn is working to trim a \$47 million athletics budget deficit. Its agreement with the Big East would call for a \$30 million exit fee, but even the least lucrative of Power Five conferences, the ACC, distributes nearly 10 times what the Big East does to its schools, roughly \$4 million.

UConn's first-year football coach Jim Mora has told recruits of a goal to join the ACC, according to a report by Hearst Connecticut. Last week, Gov. Ned Lamont, in an off-the-cuff response, tweeted UConn was "good enough to join any conference they want, unless other teams are afraid of them."

None of this should be taken to mean a move is imminent, or even in the works.

"There's a responsibility for every athletic director to do the best job you can to put your institution in the best position possible," Benedict said. "The Big East is the best option we have. I think the Big East has been great for UConn, and I hope they feel the same way. I hear very few people talk about conference realignment and UConn anymore, where previously, prior to joining the Big East, that's all people talked about."

Most conference shifts, most particularly the recent ones, are related to football and TV money. USC and UCLA bring high-powered football and the Los Angeles TV market to the Big Ten. The ACC, which has a grant-of-rights agreement with ESPN that runs through 2036, is trying to keep its most successful football programs, perhaps by addressing a revenue gap between what they bring into the conference compared to others by distributing money accordingly.

UConn's football program, which as not had a winning season since 2010, doesn't offer a conference football chops, at least not yet, and the 30th-ranked Hartford/New Haven TV market, while significant, is not as likely to attract an invitation in and of itself.

"I don't think there is a football play for [UConn]," Zimbalist said. "The action right now is in football. It isn't in basketball. And in terms of basketball, UConn could probably succeed in any of the FBS conferences. Basketball money, of course, is much, much less than football money."

Football money could mean \$200 million, depending on the school, where basketball money, Zimbalist said, tends to top out at \$30 million to \$35 million. UConn brings some unique pieces, such as its high national profile in women's basketball, a sport in which TV rights money figures to grow in the coming years, and its growing national competitiveness in hockey and baseball, but these are not likely to move a conference's needle either.

However, the one constant in the college athletics landscape has been change, and there are likely more changes to come. What if the ACC loses teams and needs to add, or perhaps form a partnership with another conference?

"One of the things that is likely to happen, just like the Pac-12 lost UCLA and USC, some of the top schools in the other Power Five conferences are going to be knocking on the door of the Big Ten and SEC," Zimbalist said. "And some of them are probably going to leave the existing conferences. When they do, the

diminished conferences are then going to start looking at schools they didn't look at before, like UConn. ... It kind of depends on what the ACC becomes. If I were UConn and I were contemplating a move to the ACC, I would like to see an ACC commitment to women's sports, and women's basketball in particular."

What if more schools become independent in football, giving UConn a greater range of scheduling partners? If the ACC, Big 12 and Pac-12 have fewer teams, it could mean they look for more out-of-conference football opponents. UConn is playing at Utah State, Michigan and NC State this coming season, and hosts Syracuse and Boston College.

"Coach Mora and his staff has done a great job of selling independence as a value add for a non-Power Five program," Benedict said. "We have schedules that you can't put together if you're a Group-of-Five conference."

When UConn made its move to the Big East, one of the advantages was a reduction of travel costs. Long football trips are more palatable for an athletic department because there is only one game a week. In other sports, those that play several times a week, long trips, such as USC or UCLA traveling between Rutgers or Maryland, certainly create a hardship for those student-athletes.

Maybe the money that comes in from the Big Ten or SEC eases such concerns, or maybe at some future date, football breaks away and forms its own conferences.

"The better question for everyone in college athletics," Benedict said, "is why do we continue to allow football to determine how every other sport competes within a conference and/or geographics. It doesn't make sense to me that there is not a viable way to separate them. Because football is unique, different in the way it travels than all the other sports."

The Big East Conference, which does not have a high-profile media day until basketball season approaches in October, has been quiet during the recent round of realignment. Commissioner Val Ackerman has said the conference must be "nimble," and with an eye on its next TV deal, is open to the idea of expanding. Basketball power programs such as Gonzaga, Dayton and VCU have been mentioned as possibilities, but the conference, like UConn, is staying put for now.

The distant future is unclear as always. In the near term, it seems inevitable that the SEC and Big Ten are separating themselves from the rest, at least monetarily. In June, the data analysis firm Navigate reported conference revenue projections for 2022: Big Ten schools are expected to rake in \$57.2 million each, SEC school \$54.3 million, followed by the Big 12, (\$40.6 million) Pac-12 (\$34.4 million) and ACC (\$30.9 million).

"Their calculation basically is, we add a market, there are so many households in the market, that's worth so much in television rights," Zimbalist said. "On the other side, now we have to divide the existing money we have, which might diminish, amongst one more school. They look at those two tradeoffs, and I don't expect that Connecticut is going to have options that are really attractive."

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In the story, Collier describes her will to return to the court this season, so she can be out there with teammate Sylvia Fowles, a WNBA legend who announced that this would be her last year in action.

"I plan to approach my comeback really [with my] feet hitting the ground, running, trying to get back as soon as I can," Collier told SLAM. "Especially because Sylvia Fowles is one of my favorite people ever. I would love to be able to play a couple games with her if I can."

The Lynx had nine games remaining in the regular season before Friday night's game, and if Collier does find a way to work her way back, there's a chance she could be on the court for the regular season finale on Aug. 14 at Mohegan Sun Arena.

Still, Reeve is playing it cautious. "I see maybe spot situations, possibly, for her," Reeve said.

Sox

from Page 1

seasons and helped the Red Sox win three World Series. He is just the 58th player selected by the Baseball Writers' Association of America in his first year of eligibility, and he served as a designated hitter more than any previous inductee.

Six Era Committee selections are also part of the class of 2022. Minnesota Twins teammates pitcher Jim Kaat and free-swinging slugger Tony Oliva, and Dodger great Gil Hodges, who managed the New York Mets to their first World Series title in 1969, are among them.

Also getting their due: Minnie Miñoso, a star with the Chicago White Sox in the 1950s; Buck O'Neil, who played for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro Leagues and was a tireless advocate for the game; and Bud Fowler, a pioneering Black player who grew up in Cooperstown in the 1860s and played in more than a dozen leagues.

It's a class with three Latino players and two Black players who helped pave the way for today's stars, and three players with ties to the Twins.

Minnesota holds a special place in Ortiz's heart because of the friendship he developed with Hall of Famer Kirby Puckett — No. 34 just like Big Papi — before Ortiz was dealt to the Red Sox after six seasons.

"That was my guy," said Ortiz, who survived a nightclub shooting three years ago in his native Dominican Republic.

Yankees

from Page 1

The Orioles were coming off an 11-game winning streak with some real momentum to end the first half of the season. The Birds may be in fifth place in the American League East, but they're the only division cellar dweller with a .500 record (46-46).

"I think we all kind of quietly knew they were getting better when we saw them early a lot this year," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We played pretty well against them early, but right away we're like, their pitching is real. They've got the guys, and now their starters are giving them quality outings. We're seeing some people really emerge within their everyday players, guys that you feel like they're going to be there awhile as central figures in what they're doing. So honestly, it's not that big a surprise to me that they're playing well. They've got good players, and they can pitch now."

The Orioles' staff entered the series ranked seventh in the American League with a 3.94 ERA, 10th in runs scored and 11th in OPS. Anthony Santander led the Orioles with 14 home runs and Austin Hayes right behind him with 12.

The Orioles began their second half of the season on Friday just 1.5 games behind the fourth-place Red Sox. It speaks to how tough the American League East is right now.

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
New York	64	30	.681	—	—	3-7	L-2	37-12	27-18
Tampa Bay	51	41	.554	12	+1 ½	6-4	W-1	31-18	20-23
Toronto	50	43	.538	13 ½	—	5-5	W-3	30-19	20-24
Boston	48	45	.516	15 ½	2	3-7	L-2	23-20	25-25
Baltimore	46	46	.500	17	3 ½	8-2	L-1	25-17	21-29

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Minnesota	50	44	.532	—	—	3-7	L-1	27-22	23-22
Cleveland	46	44	.511	2	2 ½	6-4	W-3	25-19	21-25
Chicago	46	46	.500	3	3 ½	7-3	W-1	19-25	27-21
Detroit	38	56	.404	12	12 ½	2-8	L-1	23-24	15-32
Kansas City	36	56	.391	13	13 ½	5-5	L-3	19-27	17-29

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Houston	61	32	.656	—	—	6-4	W-2	30-14	31-18
Seattle	51	42	.548	10	+	10-0	W-14	24-20	27-22
Texas	42	49	.462	18	7	4-6	W-1	21-26	21-23
Los Angeles	39	53	.424	21 ½	10 ½	2-8	L-3	22-27	17-26
Oakland	33	62	.347	29	18	5-5	W-1	12-32	21-30

BOX SCORES

LATE THURSDAY/GAME 1: HOUSTON 3, N.Y. YANKEES 2

NY Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
LeMahieu 3b	3	1	1	1	0	.279
Rizzo 1b	4	0	1	0	0	.225
Judge dh	2	0	0	0	0	.282
Carpenter lf	4	0	0	0	0	.337
Torres 2b	4	0	0	0	1	.265
Hicks cf	3	1	2	0	1	.242
Trevino c	3	0	0	0	2	.247
a-Stanton ph	1	0	0	0	0	.236
Higashioka c	0	0	0	0	0	.174
Gonzalez ss	3	0	0	0	1	.228
b-Kiner-Falefa ss1	0	1	1	0	0	.174
Gallo rf	3	0	0	0	1	.262
TOTALS	31	2	5	2	6	
Houston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	4	1	1	0	2	.275
Pena ss	4	0	1	0	2	.263
Tucker rf	4	0	1	0	1	.252
Bregman 3b	4	1	2	1	0	.241
Diaz lf	4	0	1	0	2	.234
Gurriel 1b	4	0	0	0	1	.235
Dubon cf	2	1	0	0	0	.396
c-Alvarez ph	0	0	0	0	0	.103
McCormick dh	4	0	2	0	1	.228
Lee c	3	0	1	1	1	.267
d-Matijevic ph 1	0	1	1	0	0	.171
TOTALS	34	3	10	3	10	

Two outs when winning run scored. a-grounded out for Trevino in the 9th. b-singled for Gonzalez in the 9th. c-intentionally walked for Dubon in the 9th. d-singled for Lee in the 9th.

LOB: New York 8, Houston 7. **2B:** Lee (2), Diaz (7). **HR:** LeMahieu (9), off Javier. **RBIs:** LeMahieu (36), Kiner-Falefa (28), Bregman (47), Lee (4), Matijevic (4). **Runners left in scoring position:** NYY 5 (Gallo, Torres 3, LeMahieu), Hou 2 (Pena, Gurriel). **RISP:** NYY1for 8; Hou 2for 9. **Runners moved up:** Stanton. **LIDP:** Carpenter. **GIDP:** Bregman, Lee. **DP:** NYY 2(Torres, Rizzo; Torres, Gonzalez, Rizzo); Hou 1(Gurriel).

NY YANKEES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Montgomery	6⅓	7	2	2	1	8	3.24
A.Abreu	⅓	0	0	0	0	0	2.13
King, L, 6-3	⅓	3	1	1	1	2	2.34
HOUSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Javier	5	2	1	1	4	3	3.13
Maton, H, 10	1	1	0	0	0	2	3.46
Stanek, H, 9	1	0	0	0	1	0	0.56
Montero, H, 14	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.68
Neris, W, 3-3	1	2	1	1	1	0	3.89
Inherited runners-scored: A.Abreu 1-0.							
IBB: off King (Alvarez). HBP: Javier (Judge). WP: Javier. Umpires: Home, Mark Ripberger; First, Clint Vondrak; Second, Adrian Johnson; Third, Cory Blaser. T: 3:14. A: 36,225(41,168).							

LATE THURSDAY: TEXAS 8, MIAMI 0

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Smith 3b	5	0	0	0	2	.207
Semien ss	3	2	2	0	0	.242
Lowe 1b	5	1	1	1	3	.269
Heim c	3	2	1	1	1	.263
Ad.Garcia rf	5	1	2	3	1	.239
Taveras cf	5	1	2	2	1	.344
Calhoun lf	4	0	1	0	2	.221
Hernandez dh	4	0	1	1	2	.287
Duran 2b	4	1	1	0	0	.258
TOTALS	38	8	11	8	12	
Miami	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Wendle 2b	4	0	2	0	0	.284
Cooper dh	4	0	1	0	1	.282
Soler lf	4	0	0	0	3	.206
Aguilar 1b	3	0	0	0	0	.249
Anderson 3b	4	0	1	0	1	.262
Av.Garcia cf	4	0	2	0	0	.229
Sanchez rf	1	0	0	0	0	.201
a-De La Cruz cf 2	0	1	0	1	0	.212
Rojas ss	3	0	0	1	2	.237
Stallings c	4	0	0	0	1	.180
TOTALS	33	0	7	0	7	

a-struck out for Sanchez in the 7th. **LOB:** Texas 8, Miami 9.2B: Calhoun (14), Semien (16), Hernandez (1), Taveras (10). **SB:** Wendle (6).

HR: Ad.Garcia (16), off Lopez. **RBIs:** Lowe (39), Heim (34), Ad.Garcia 3 (54), Hernandez (2), Taveras 2(17). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 5(Calhoun 2, Ad.Garcia, Smith 2); Miami 6(Cooper 2, Anderson, Wendle, Stallings 2). **RISP:** Texas 5for 18; Miami 0for 8. **Runners moved up:** Lowe, Duran, Cooper, Rojas. **GIDP:** Sanchez. **DP:** Texas 1(Smith, Lowe).

TEXAS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gray, W, 7-4	6	4	0	0	2	5	3.48
Moore	1	1	0	0	1	2	1.69
Bush	1	0	0	0	0	0	3.31
Santana	1	2	0	0	0	0	4.10

MIAMI	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Lopez, L, 6-5	5	5	5	5	3	6	3.14
Pop	1	1	0	0	0	1	2.40
Nance	2	3	1	1	1	2	6.00
Scott	1	2	2	2	1	2	4.42

Pitches-Strikes: Gray 94-62; Moore 23-16; Bush 11-8; Santana 15-10; López 94-59; Pop 10-7; Nance 35-24; Scott 24-16. **Batters Faced:** Gray 23; Moore 5; Bush 3; Santana 5; López 24; Pop 4; Nance 9; Scott 6. **HBP:** Lopez (Semien). **WP:** Moore, Nance. **Umpires:** Home, Brian Knight; First, Doug Eddings; Second, Roberto Ortiz; Third, Bill Miller. **Time:** 3:06. A: 9,524(36,742).

LATE THURSDAY/GAME 2: HOUSTON 7, N.Y. YANKEES 5

NY Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Judge dh	4	2	1	3	3	.282
Torres 2b	5	1	2	1	2	.267
Carpenter 1b	3	0	0	0	1	.326
Stanton lf	4	0	0	0	3	.232
Donaldson 3b	4	0	2	0	0	.228
Hicks cf	3	0	0	0	0	.238
Donaldson 3b	3	0	0	0	0	.238
Kiner-Falefa ss 4	1	1	1	0	1	.274
Locastro rf	2	0	0	0	0	.273
a-LeMahieu ph 1	1	1	1	0	0	.282
Higashioka c	3	0	1	0	1	.178
b-Rizzo ph	1	0	0	0	0	.224
TOTALS	34	5	8	5	10	
Houston	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0	0	.271
Pena ss	4	1	1	0	0	.263
Alvarez dh	4	2	2	3	2	.309
Bregman 3b	4	1	2	2	0	.245
Tucker rf	3	0	1	0	0	.253
Meyers cf	3	0	0	0	2	.233
Matijevic 1b	3	1	0	0	0	.159
McCormick lf	4	1	1	2	0	.229
Maldonado c	3	1	0	0	1	.164
TOTALS	32	7	7	7	5	

a-singled for Locastro in the 9th. b-flied out for Higashioka in the 9th. **E:** Torres (6), Higashioka (3). **LOB:** New York 7, Houston 5. **2B:** Pena (10), Alvarez (12). **HR:** Torres (15), off Garcia; Judge (34), off Bielak; Alvarez (27), off German; Bregman (12), off German; McCormick (9), off Sears. **RBIs:** Torres 2(43), Judge 3(73), Alvarez 3(63), Bregman 2(49), McCormick 2 (23). **SB:** Tucker (16). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 4(Hicks 2, Locastro 2); Houston 3 (Matijevic, Meyers, Maldonado). **RISP:** New York 1for 6; Houston 2for 5. **Runners moved up:** Donaldson. **GIDP:** Carpenter. **DP:** Houston 1(Bregman, Pena, Matijevic).

NY YANKEES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
German, L, 0-1	3	6	5	5	1	2	15.00
Sears	3	1	2	2	0	1	2.05
Chapman	1	0	0	0	2	4	4.50
Loaisiga	1	0	0	0	0	0	7.45
HOUSTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Garcia, W, 8-5	5	3	2	2	6	3	3.65
Bielak, H, 1	3 2/3	4	3	1	4	4	3.48
Montero, S, 7-8	1/3	1	0	0	0	0	1.85
HBP: German (Maldonado), Sears (Matijevic), Bielak 2 (Locastro, Carpenter). WP: Garcia, Bielak.							
Umpires: Home, Clint Vondrak; First, Edwin Moscoso; Second, Cory Blaser; Third, Mark Ripberger.							
Time: 3:11. A: 39,342(41,168).							

LATE THURSDAY: L.A. DODGERS 9, SAN FRANCISCO 6

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Wade Jr. dh	1	0	0	0	0	.178
a-Ruf ph-dh 3	1	1	4	2	2	.229
Belt 1b	5	0	1	0	2	.241
Flores 2b	4	1	0	0	0	.250
Pederson lf	5	0	1	0	0	.251
Longoria 3b	4	1	1	0	1	.245
Gonzalez rf	2	1	0	0	2	.268
Estrada ss	3	1	1	1	0	.260
Yastrzemski cf 2	0	0	0	0	0	.234
c-Slater ph-cf 1	1	1	0	0	0	.301
Wynns c	1	0	1	0	0	.234
d-Mercedes ph 1	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Bart c	1	0	0	0	1	.183
TOTALS	33	6	6	6	7	
Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Betts rf	4	1	1	3	0	.265
T.Jurner ss	5	1	2	0	2	.307
Freeman 1b	2	2	1	0	0	.322
Smith c	4	0	0	1	0	.279
J.Turner dh	3	1	1	2	1	.253
e-Lamb ph-dh 1	0	0	0	1	0	.226
Alberto 2b	2	1	2	1	0	.244
b-Lux ph-2b 2	2	1	1	0	0	.294
Muncy 3b	4	0	0	0	2	.157
Thompson lf	4	1	2	2	1	.236
Belling cf	3	1	0	0	0	.208
TOTALS	34	9	10	9	9	

a-struck out for Wade Jr. in the 6th. b-flied out for Alberto in the 6th. c-hit by pitch for Yastrzemski in the 7th. d-struck out for Wynns in the 7th. e-struck out for J.Turner in the 8th. **E:** Estrada (7), Wynns (1). **LOB:** San Francisco 7, Los Angeles 5. **2B:** Pederson (12), Thompson (5), J.Turner (22), Alberto (5), T.Jurner (23), Lux (13). **3B:** Thompson (1). **HR:** Longoria (9), off Bickford; Ruf (10), off Vesia; Freeman (14), off Rodon; Betts (21), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Longoria (19), Ruf (436), Estrada (37), Freeman (60), Thompson (213), J.Turner 2(53), Alberto (9), Betts 3(50). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 3(Belt, Bart 2); Los Angeles 4(Smith, T.Jurner, Belling, Muncy). **RISP:** San Francisco 1for 6; Los Angeles 4for 10. **Runners moved up:** Muncy. **SAN FRANCISCO**IP H R ER BB SO ERA Rodon 5 6 5 5 2 7 2.95 Marte 1 0 0 0 0 1 4.88 Brebbia 1 1 0 0 1 0 2.40 Bickford 0 2 3 3 1 0 5.93 Vesia, BS, 1-2 ⅓ 1 2 2 0 2 3.68 Phillips, W, 4-3 1 1 1 3 1 1.70 Kimbrel, S, 16-19 1 1 0 0 0 1 4.22 Bickford pitched to 3batters in the 7th Inherited runners-scored: Garcia 1-1, Ferguson 1-0, Vesia 2-2. **IBB:** off Brebbia (Freeman). **WP:** Phillips (Gonzalez). **HBP:** Vesia (Slater). **Off:** Rodon. **Umpires:** Home, Alfonso Marquez; First, Lance Barrett; Second, Ramon De Jesus; Third, Malachi Moore. T: 3:29. A: 53,165 (56,000).

Cubs won 7-4. He hit three straight in the second game, but the Giants won 12-10. In that game, Nicholson was walked with the bases loaded in the seventh inning.

1955: Bob Cerv and Elston Howard of the New York Yankees hit consecutive pinch-hit home runs to force extra innings against Kansas City. The Athletics won 8-7 in the 11th inning on Hector Lopez's RBI-single. Trailing 7-5 entering the top of the ninth, Cerv batted for pitcher Tommy Byrne and homered of Alex Kellner. Tom Gorman replaced Kellner and Howard, hitting for Irv Noren, tied the game.

1964: Bert Campaneris of Kansas City hit two home runs in his first major league game. He homered on the first

LATE THURSDAY/ GAME 1: DETROIT 7, OAKLAND 2

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Greene cf	5	1	2	1	1	.259
Baez dh	5	2	3	0	0	.219
Grossman lf	4	0	2	3	1	.210
Haase c	3	1	0	0	0	.238
Schoop 2b	4	0	1	2	1	.213
W.Castro rf	5	0	0	0	2	.248
Clemens 1b	3	0	0	0	0	.153
a-Reyes ph	1	0	0	0	1	.291
H.Castro 1b	0	0	0	0	0	.281
Candelario 3b	4	2	2	1	1	.196
Short ss	3	1	0	0	2	.000
TOTALS	37	7	10	7	9	
Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Bolt cf	4	0	0	0	2	.205
Laureano dh	4	0	0	0	2	.231
Murphy c	2	0	0	0	1	.239
Pinder lf	4	0	1	0	2	.241
Brown 1b	4	2	2	1	0	.220
Piscotty rf	5	0	0	1	2	.183
Neuse 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.229
Machin 3b	4	0	1	0	1	.208
Allen ss	3	0	1	0	1	.200
TOTALS	31	2	5	2	13	

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER

MLS EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Philadelphia	10	2	9	39	33	15
New York City FC	11	4	5	38	39	21
N.Y. Red Bulls	9	6	6	33	30	22
CF Montréal	10	8	7	32	34	35
Orlando City	8	7	6	30	26	30
Columbus	7	5	8	29	27	22
Cincinnati	7	8	6	27	32	37
Charlotte FC	8	11	2	26	25	27
Inter Miami CF	7	9	4	25	22	31
New England	6	7	7	25	32	34
Atlanta	6	8	6	24	29	31
Chicago	6	10	5	23	21	27
Toronto FC	5	12	4	19	26	39
D.C. United	5	11	3	18	25	41
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	13	4	3	42	40	22
Austin FC	12	4	5	41	42	24
Real Salt Lake	9	6	6	33	28	26
Minnesota United	9	8	4	31	29	25
Nashville	8	7	6	30	27	27
FC Dallas	7	6	8	29	31	25
LA Galaxy	8	9	3	27	28	27
Portland	6	6	9	27	33	30
Seattle	8	10	2	26	26	24
Vancouver	7	9	5	26	23	34
Houston	7	10	4	25	27	29
Colorado	6	8	6	24	24	27
San Jose	5	8	7	22	33	41
Sporting KC	5	12	5	20	19	38

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Miami at New York City FC, 7p.m.
Nashville at Cincinnati, 7:30p.m.
New England at Columbus, 7:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando City, 7:30p.m.
Charlotte FC at Toronto FC, 7:30p.m.
CF Montréal at D.C. United, 8p.m.
Minnesota at Houston, 8:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Sporting KC, 8:30p.m.
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake, 10p.m.
Colorado at Seattle, 10p.m.
Chicago at Vancouver, 10p.m.
San Jose at Portland, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
N.Y. Red Bulls at Austin FC, 8p.m.
Atlanta at LA Galaxy, 9:30p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 29
Seattle at Los Angeles FC, 11p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 30
Portland at Minnesota, 3p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 5p.m.
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
New York City FC at CF Montréal, 7:30 p.m.
Houston at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m.
Cincinnati at Miami, 8p.m.
Vancouver at Nashville, 8p.m.
Toronto FC at New England, 8p.m.
Austin FC at Sporting KC, 8:30p.m.
LA Galaxy at FC Dallas, 9p.m.
Real Salt Lake at San Jose, 10p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 31
Orlando City at D.C. United, 5p.m.

U.S. OPEN CUP
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, SEMIFINALS
N.Y. Red Bulls at Orlando City, 5:30p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Sacramento Republic FC, 8:30p.m.

MLS LEADERS	GP	Goals
Player, Team		
V. Castellanos, NYC	16	13
H. Mukhtar, NSH	21	12
S. Drussi, ATX	21	11
J. Ebobisse, SJ	20	11
J. Ferreira, DAL	21	11
T. Fountas, DC	12	10
B. Vázquez, CIN	20	10

Source: mlssoccer.com

NWSL CLUB	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
San Diego FC	6	3	4	22	19	11
Portland	5	1	6	21	19	10
Chicago	5	2	5	20	16	10
Houston	5	4	3	18	20	14
Kansas City	5	4	3	18	12	14
OL Reign	4	3	5	17	11	9
Angel City FC	5	4	2	17	10	11
Orlando	3	5	4	13	12	26
Gotham FC	4	6	0	12	7	18
Louisville	2	5	5	11	13	18
Washington	1	5	7	10	11	15
North Carolina	2	5	2	8	14	16

Three points for win, one point for tie.

FRIDAY, JULY 29
Washington at North Carolina, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Louisville, 8p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 30
San Diego Wave FC at Chicago, 8p.m.
OL Reign at Angel City FC, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 31
Houston at Gotham FC, 5p.m.
Orlando at Kansas City, 7p.m.

TENNIS
HAMBURG EUROPEAN OPEN
Thursday at Am Rothenbaum Rot-Weiss Tennis Club, Hamburg, Germany, outdoors, Red clay
ATP MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#1Carlos Alcaraz d.
#7Karen Khachanov 6-0, 6-2.
Francisco Cerundolo d.
Aslan Karatsev 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(4).
Lorenzo Musetti d.
Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, 6-4, 6-3.
WTA WOMEN'S SINGLES, SEMIFINALS
#1Anett Kontaveit d.
Anastasia Potapova, 6-3, 7-5.
Bernarda Pera d.
#7Maryna Zanevska 6-2, 6-4.

ATP: SWISS OPEN
Thursday at Roy Emerson Arena, Gstaad, Switzerland, outdoors, Red clay
MEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#1Casper Ruud d.
Jaume Munar, 7-6(3), 7-6(4).
#2Matteo Berrettini (2), d.
#5Pedro Martinez, 3-6, 7-6(5), 6-1.
#4Albert Ramos-Vinolas d.
Nicolas Jarry, 7-6(4), 4-6, 7-6(8).
Dominic Thiem d.
Juan Pablo Varillas, 6-4, 6-3.

WTA: PALERMO LADIES OPEN
Thursday at Country Time Club, Palermo, Italy, outdoors, Red clay
WOMEN'S SINGLES, QUARTERFINALS
#4Sara Sorribes Tormo d.
#7 Anna Bondar, 6-2, 6-3.
#6Irina-Camelia Begu d.
Diane Parry, 6-1, 6-3.

ATP MONEY LEADERS	
1. Rafael Nadal	\$6,376,536
2. Carlos Alcaraz	\$4,362,817
3. Novak Djokovic	\$4,239,527
4. Stefanos Tsitsipas	\$3,726,968
5. Casper Ruud	\$2,947,028
6. Taylor Fritz	\$2,701,985
7. Alexander Zverev	\$2,678,178
8. Daniil Medvedev	\$2,539,882
9. Hubert Hurkacz	\$2,458,313
10. Nick Kyrgios	\$2,206,529
11. Felix Auger-Aliassime	\$2,166,769
12. Andrey Rublev	\$2,105,385
13. Cameron Norrie	\$2,054,207
14. Dennis Shiner	\$2,044,216
15. Janis Shapovalov	\$1,754,311
16. Matteo Berrettini	\$1,585,530
17. Diego Schwartzman	\$1,585,330
18. Pablo Carreno Busta	\$1,457,190
19. Alex de Minaur	\$1,444,242
20. Marin Cilic	\$1,378,818
21. John Isner	\$1,321,493
22. Roberto Bautista Agut	\$1,252,427

WTA MONEY LEADERS	
1. Iga Swiatek	\$6,551,635
2. Ons Jabeur	\$3,411,884
3. Elena Rybakina	\$3,365,993
4. Ashleigh Barty	\$2,289,930
5. Jessica Pegula	\$2,265,941
6. Coco Gauff	\$2,195,178
7. Danielle Collins	\$1,745,810
8. Simona Halep	\$1,713,057
9. Maria Sakkari	\$1,554,172
10. Paula Badosa	\$1,473,471
11. Veronika Kudermetova	\$1,366,105
12. Barbora Krejickova	\$1,352,227
13. Elise Mertens	\$1,344,235
14. Madison Keys	\$1,317,284
15. Amanda Anisimova	\$1,298,913
16. Jelena Ostapenko	\$1,284,980
17. Daria Kasatkina	\$1,251,930
18. Alize Cornet	\$1,107,007
19. Katerina Siniakova	\$1,070,873
20. Jil Teichmann	\$1,030,681
21. Belinda Bencic	\$1,021,991
22. Shuai Zhang	\$978,340

CYCLING

109TH TOUR DE FRANCE
Friday's 19th Stage, a 188.3-km (117-mile) ride from Castelnau to Magnoac-Cahors
STAGE 19 RESULTS *-time behind leader
1. Christophe Laporte, France 3:52:04
2. Jasper Philipsen, Belgium, :01*.
3. Alberto Dainese, Italy same time.
4. Florian Senechal, France same time.
5. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia same time.
6. Amaury Capiot, Belgium same time.
7. Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands same time.
8. Hugo Hofstetter, France same time.
9. Luka Mezgec, Slovenia same time.
10. Caleb Ewan, Australia same time.
ALSO
38. Neilson Powless, U.S. :21*.
39. Matteo Jorgenson, U.S. same time.
51. Sepp Kuss, U.S. :56*.
69. Brandon McNulty, U.S. 2:23*.
85. Joe Dombrowski, U.S. same time.
121. Quinn Simmons, U.S. 8:02*.

OVERALL STANDINGS
1. Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark 75:45:39.
2. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia 3:26*.
3. Geraint Thomas, Great Britain 8:00*.
4. David Gaudu, France 11:05*.
5. Nairo Quintana, Colombia 13:35*.
6. Louis Meintjes, South Africa 13:43*.
7. Aleksandr Vlasov, Russia 14:10*.
8. Romain Bardet, France 16:11*.
9. Alexey Lutsenko, Russia 20:29*.
10. Adam Yates, Great Britain 20:37*.
ALSO
13. Neilson Powless, U.S. 45:22*.
18. Sepp Kuss, U.S. 58:55*.
20. Brandon McNulty, U.S. 1:26:05*.
21. Matteo Jorgenson, U.S. 1:31:46*.
43. Joe Dombrowski, U.S. 2:31:29*.
68. Quinn Simmons, U.S. 3:22:35*.

YOUNG RIDERS STANDINGS
1. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia 75:49:05.
2. Thomas Pidcock, Great Britain 51:26*.
3. Brandon McNulty, U.S. 1:22:39*.
4. Matteo Jorgenson, U.S. 1:28:20*.
5. Andreas Leknessund, Norway 1:52:19*.
6. Michael Storer, Australia 2:15:22*.
7. Georg Zimmermann, Germany 2:30:37*.
8. Kevin Geniets, Luxembourg 2:41:51*.
9. Fred Wright, United Kingdom 3:00:20*.
10. Quinn Simmons, U.S. 3:19:09*.

MOUNTAIN STANDINGS
1. Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark 72.
2. Simon Geschke, Germany 64.
3. Giulio Ciccone, Italy 61.
4. Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia 61.
5. Wout van Aert, Belgium 59.
6. Thibaut Pinot, France 52.
7. Louis Meintjes, South Africa 39.
8. Neilson Powless, U.S. 37.
9. Pierre Latour, France 35.
10. Geraint Thomas, Great Britain 32.

STAGES WINNERS/SCHEDULE
July 1, Stage 1: Copenhagen, Denmark, individual time-trial, 13.2kilometers (8.2miles). (**Stage:** Yves Lampaert, Belgium; **Yellow Jersey:** Lampaert)
July 2, Stage 2: Roskilde, Denmark—Nyborg, Denmark, flat, 202.5 (125) (Fabio Jakobsen, Netherlands; Wout van Aert)
July 3, Stage 3: Vejle, Denmark—Sønderborg, Denmark, flat, 182 (113) (Dylan Groenewegen, Netherlands; Wout van Aert)
July 5, Stage 4: Dunkirk (France)—Calais, hilly, 171.5 (106) (Wout van Aert, Belgium; Wout van Aert)
July 6, Stage 5: Lille Metropole—Arenberg Porte Du Hainaut, hilly, 153.7 (95) (Simon Clarke, Australia; Wout van Aert)
July 7, Stage 6: Binche—Longwy, hilly, 219.9 (136) (Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia; Pogacar)
July 8, Stage 7: Tomblaine—La Super Plance des Belles Filles, mountain, 176.3 (109) (Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia; Pogacar)
July 9, Stage 8: Dole—Lausanne, hilly, 186.3 (115) (Wout van Aert, Belgium; Pogacar)
July 10, Stage 9: Aigle—Chatel Les Portes Du Soleil, mountain, 192.9 (120) (Bob Jungels, Luxembourg; Castroviejo)
July 12, Stage 10: Morzine Les Portes Du Soleil—Megeve, hilly, 148.1 (92) (Magnus Cort Nielsen, Denmark; Pogacar)
July 13, Stage 11: Ablertville—Col Du Granon Serre Chevalier, mountain, 151.7 (94) (Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark; Vingegaard)
July 14, Stage 12: Braincon—Alpe d'Huez, mountain, 165.5 (102.8) (Thomas Pidcock, Great Britain; Vingegaard)
July 15, Stage 13: Le Bourg d'Oisans—Saint-Etienne, flat, 192.6 (119) (Mads Pedersen, Denmark; Vingegaard)
July 16, Stage 14: Saint-Etienne—Mende, hilly, 192.5 (119) (Michael Matthews, Australia; Vingegaard)
July 17, Stage 15: Rodez—Carcassonne, flat, 202.5 (125) (Jasper Philipsen, Belgium; Vingegaard)
July 19, Stage 16: Carcassonne—Foix, hilly, 178.5 (110) (Hugo Houle, Canada; Vingegaard)
July 20, Stage 17: Saint Gaudens—Peyragudes, mountain, 129.7 (80) (Tadej Pogacar, Slovenia; Vingegaard)
July 21, Stage 18: Lourdes—Hautacam, mountain, 143.2 (89) (Jonas Vingegaard, Denmark; Vingegaard)
July 22, Stage 19: Castelnau—Magnoac-Cahors, flat 188.3 (117) (Christophe Laporte, France; Vingegaard)
Saturday, Stage 20: La Capelle—Marival-Rocamadour, individual time-trial, 40.7 (25)
Sunday, Stage 21: Paris La Defense Arena—Paris Champs-Elysees, flat, 115.6 (71)

WNBA	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	20	6	.769	—
Connecticut	17	9	.654	3
Washington	17	11	.607	4
Atlanta	12	15	.444	8 ½
New York	9	17	.346	11
Indiana	5	24	.172	16 ½
WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	19	8	.704	—
Seattle	17	9	.654	1 ½
Los Angeles	12	14	.462	6 ½
Dallas	11	14	.440	7
Phoenix	11	16	.407	8
Minnesota	10	17	.370	9

x-clinched playoff spot

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Connecticut at Minnesota, late
Dallas at Chicago, late
Seattle at Phoenix, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at New York, 7p.m.
Los Angeles at Las Vegas, 10p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Dallas at Indiana, 3p.m.
Atlanta at Seattle, 6p.m.
Connecticut at Minnesota, 7p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 78, New York 69
Los Angeles 85, Atlanta 78
Las Vegas 90, Indiana 77

WNBA LEADERS	POINTS PER GAME	Team PPG
Rank Player		
1. Breanna Stewart	SEA	21.2
2. Kelsey Plum	LVA	20.2
3. Arike Ogunbowale	DAL	19.5
4. Skylar Diggins-Smith	PHO	19.4
5. A'ja Wilson	LVA	19.1
6. Nneka Ogumwike	LAS	19.0
7. Kelsey Mitchell	IND	18.3
8. Sabrina Ionescu	NYL	17.2
9. Diana Taurasi	PHO	16.6
10. Jackie Young	LVA	16.1

Connecticut	17	9	.654	3
Washington	17	11	.607	4
Atlanta	12	15	.444	8 ½
New York	9	17	.346	11
Indiana	5	24	.172	16 ½
WEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	19	8	.704	—
Seattle	17	9	.654	1 ½
Los Angeles	12	14	.462	6 ½
Dallas	11	14	.440	7
Phoenix	11	16	.407	8
Minnesota	10	17	.370	9

ODDS
The Odds were not available at press time.

GOLF

LATE THURSDAY: PGA 3M OPEN
1st of 4 rounds, TPC Twin Cities, Blaine, Minn., 7,431 yards; Par: 71

Sungjae Im	31-34—65	-6
Scott Piercy	33-32—65	-6
Tony Finau	32-35—67	-4
Brice Garnett	34-33—67	-4
Doug Ghim	32-35—67	-4
Emiliano Grillo	33-34—67	-4
Tom Hoge	32-35—67	-4
Ricky Barnes	31-37—68	-3
Chesson Hadley	35-33—68	-3
Adam Hadwin	35-33—68	-3
Patton Kizzire	31-37—68	-3
Hank Lebioda	36-32—68	-3
David Lingmerth	34-34—68	-3
Peter Malnati	35-33—68	-3
Robert Streb	34-34—68	-3
Jared Wolfe	35-33—68	-3
Jonas Blixt	35-34—69	-2
Scott Brown	32-37—69	-2
James Hahn	33-36—69	-2
Adam Long	32-37—69	-2
Seung-Yul Noh	33-36—69	-2
C.T. Pan	34-35—69	-2
Greg Chalmers	35-35—70	-1
Cameron Davis	36-34—70	-1
Jason Day	34-36—70	-1
Rickie Fowler	36-34—70	-1
Paul Goydos	36-34—70	-1
Lee Hodges	36-34—70	-1
Kelly Kraft	35-35—70	-1
Andrew Novak	33-37—70	-1
Matthias Schwab	35-35—70	-1
Greyson Sigg	34-36—70	-1
Roger Sloan	32-38—70	-1
Brendon Todd	33-37—70	-1
Kevin Tway	33-37—70	-1
Matt Wallace	35-35—70	-1
Ryan Brehm	37-34—71	E
Stewart Cink	36-35—71	E
Nick Hardy	37-34—71	E
Rick Lamb	35-36—71	E
Derek Lamely	35-36—71	E
Maverick McNealy	36-35—71	E
Ryan Moore	36-35—71	E
Matthew NeSmith	37-34—71	E
J.T. Poston	35-36—71	E
Andrew Putnam	34-37—71	E
Doc Redman	33-38—71	E
Chase Seiffert	36-35—71	E
Callum Tarren	35-36—71	E
Nick Taylor	37-34—71	E

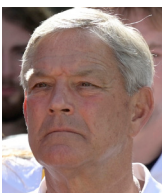
AMUNDI EVIAN CHAMPIONSHIP
2nd of 4 rounds, Evian Resort GC, Evian-les-Bains, France, 6,527 yards; Par 71

Brooke Henderson	64-64-128	-14
Nelly Korda	64-67-131	-11
Sei Young Kim	68-65-133	-9
So Yeon Ryu	67-66-133	-9
Carlota Ciganda	67-67-134	-8
Perrine Delacour	66-68-134	-8
Hyo Joo Kim	68-66-134	-8
Andrea Lee	69-65-134	-8
Sophia Schubert	69-65-134	-8
Atthaya Thitikul	68-66-134	-8
Ayaka Furue	63-72-135	-7
Nasa Hataoka	69-66-135	-7
Charley Hull	66-69-135	-7
Lydia Ko	66-69-135	-7
Jun Young Ko	66-69-135	-7
Sarah Kemp	69-67-136	-6
Anna Nordqvist	67-69-136	-6
Min Ji Park	67-69-136	-6
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	68-69-137	-5
Jasmine Suwannapura	70-67-137	-5
Kelly Tan	69-68-137	-5
Brittany Altomare	69-69-138	-4
Ashleigh Buhai	68-70-138	-4
Linn Grant	67-71-138	-4
A Lin Kim	70-68-138	-4
Cheney Knight	65-73-138	-4
Allison Lee	71-67-138	-4
Amy Yang	70-68-138	-4
Rose Zhang	70-68-138	-4
Hye Jin Choi	71-68-139	-3
In Gee Chun	67-72-139	-3
Olivia Cowan	73-66-139	-3
Anna Davis	70-69-139	-3
Amanda Doherty	69-70-139	-3
Ally Ewing	69-70-139	-3
Eun-Hee Ji	67-72-139	-3
Minjee Lee	70-69-139	-3
Yuna Nishimura	66-73-139	-3
Madelene Sagstrom	70-69-139	-3
Jenny Shin	73-66-139	-3
Albane Valenzuela	70-69-139	-3

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Facing litigation, Iowa makes hires



Iowa hired Lorenda Holston as assistant athletic director for diversity, equity and inclusion and Anthony Embry for the newly created position of athletics academic and diversity coordinator, the university announced Friday. The moves come as the university faces a lawsuit by former football players who allege they faced discrimination and harassment from coaches and staff because they are Black. Holston previously worked in athletic department support positions at Purdue and Georgia Tech. Embry had worked in academic support in athletic departments at Coastal Carolina and the University of Portland. The former players' lawsuit was filed in November 2020, naming head coach Kirk Ferentz, pictured, and offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz, his son. They allege they were demeaned with racial slurs, forced to abandon Black hairstyles, fashion and culture to fit the "Iowa Way" promoted by Kirk Ferentz, held to different standards than white players and retaliated against for speaking out. Iowa linebackers coach Seth Wallace was added as a defendant in the lawsuit in April.

Lyles leads US to a sweep of the 200



Noah Lyles crouched down, put his hands on his knees and glared at the clock. Not seeing what he'd hoped for, he waved his hand dismissively and walked back onto the track to celebrate what was still a long-awaited win in the 200 meters at the world championships. Oh, but this night would just keep getting better. The clock that, for a moment, read "19.32," would adjust down a tick to "19.31." That meant he broke Michael Johnson's hallowed, 26-year-old American record — a mark that, for decades, seemed unapproachable. Then, a few seconds later, the scoreboard that, at first, only had Lyles' name on it, popped up with the names of the two finishers behind him: Kenny Bednarek and Erriyon Knighton of the U.S. The U.S. had swept the 200, just as it had the 100 four nights earlier. Lyles pounded his hand on the track four times, stood up straight and ripped off his jersey. He grabbed his medal from the presenter, then went over and hugged his family and took hold of an American flag. The sweep gave the U.S. 22 medals through seven days of competition.

Hamilton chasing 1st win of season



Lewis Hamilton enters his 300th Formula One race at the French Grand Prix this weekend in the uncustmary position of chasing his first win of the season. The seven-time world champion holds the F1 record with 103 victories and 103 poles, but the 37-year-old British driver also shares two records with fellow great Michael Schumacher: seven world titles and winning at least one race in 15 straight seasons. Schumacher won every year from his 1992 F1 debut through 2006, while Hamilton has one every year since his 2007 series debut. But Hamilton is winless through the first 12 races of this season. He is inching closer to the top of the podium after three straight podium finishes since Mercedes ironed out ongoing issues with bouncing. F1 races Sunday in the French Grand Prix. "It's been really positive to have some consistency. We're constantly adding performance, we're constantly progressing and there's a lot to come," Hamilton said. As for standout moments in his illustrious career, Hamilton selected his first F1 win in 2007, his first title in 2008, and winning on his home track at Silverstone. —AP



The Rangers invested a lot of money into Corey Seager, left, and Marcus Semien. They're beginning to shine. TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

MLB

Starting to pay off

Seager, Semien turning things around for Rangers

By Stephen Hawkins
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — When Marcus Semien was struggling at the plate during his first two months with the Rangers, manager Chris Woodward was emphatic at times when repeatedly telling everyone that their new second baseman would be just fine. The manager already had a relationship with Corey Seager from their days together with the Dodgers, so he was even more certain of what to expect from the shortstop who had already been a World Series MVP. Texas still hasn't had a winning record with its half-billion dollar middle infield, but Semien has been steady since breaking out of his early slump and Seager had a homer surge that took him back to Dodger Stadium for the All-Star Game and Home Run Derby. "We're just seeing the consistency we expected," Woodward said. "It's a lot of pressure on those guys coming in, I knew both of those guys could handle it." The Rangers were coming off 102 losses and their fifth losing season in a row when Seager signed a \$325 million, 10-year contract, and Semien got a \$175 million, seven-year deal just before the MLB lockout began last December. "It's a challenge for every player that comes into a new organization," Woodward said "And with all the publicity that's around those guys, you know,

they're expecting to turn this thing around, and it's hard. You can't just flip it like that." The Rangers (42-49) returned from the All-Star break with an 8-0 win at Miami on Thursday, the makeup of a game postponed at the start of the season because of the lockout. The Rangers then had to fly across the country to play 10 consecutive games on the West Coast. The Rangers went into the break after being swept in a four-game series at home by the streaking Mariners. Seager has 22 homers, only four short of his career high, after seven homers in a 10-game stretch right before the break. He got a day off Thursday, after making a cross-country trip to be with his teammates and then flying right back to California with them. After going 2 for 3 with a walk and getting hit by a pitch against the Marlins, Semien was hitting a season-high .242 with 13 homers and 43 RBIs. His average is nearly 100 points higher than at the start of May, and almost 50 higher than on June 1. "There's definitely going to be months where guys start off slow, there's going to be months in the beginning where guys have rough months, and months in the end," Semien said. "Mine just happened to be as a new guy in the first month or two." Semien said he just wasn't hitting well early, and that the issue "wasn't any added pressure or anything." His 45 homers last season set an MLB record for second basemen, but Semien's first with Texas didn't come until his 44th game on May 28. Just over a week later, he went deep three times while setting a franchise record with seven hits during a doubleheader

at Cleveland. "Once you see the ball go over the fence a couple of times, you start to feel a little bit better," Semien said. "And also when you're controlling the strike zone better and not chasing pitches out of the zone that you don't want to hit, it's always a good feeling, too." Seager was hitting .251 with 52 RBIs. He had career-high streaks for homers (five games) and RBIs (eight) just before the break — that span also included the only time Semien and Seager have hit back-to-back homers for the Rangers. "It's fun to be beside him," said Seager, who was only 19 when he and Semien were teammates in the Arizona Fall League nearly nine years ago. Woodward was the third base coach for the Dodgers, and before he left after the 2018 season to become the Rangers manager, he challenged Seager to become a leader. The shortstop was the World Series MVP two years later, a year before reuniting with Woodward and Semien, who finished third in the AL MVP voting in 2019 and 2021 — the last two 162-game seasons. The Rangers recovered from a 2-9 start this season and were 24-24 at the end of May. But after peaking at .500, they lost their first three games in June by a combined four runs. They had 20 one-run losses before the break. "There's been some heartbreakers... every night is like now we're just this close," Woodward said. "But when you have those guys that you know are going to be here, from an organizational standpoint that makes you sleep a little better at night. Especially when you're trying to put a winning team together, and you've got those guys to rely on."

WNBA

A tall order: Han eyes Yao impact

By Doug Feinberg | Associated Press

NEW YORK — Han Xu understandably grew up idolizing Yao Ming, mesmerized by the giant shadow the 7-foot-6 Hall of Famer cast each time he stepped onto an NBA court. Standing 6-10, Han would like to emulate Yao's impact — including his influence on the sport in China. The Liberty post player wants to be a female beacon of basketball in her native land. Han is on her way. Fans can't seem to get enough of the 22-year-old budding star. "Han and Li (Yueru) have been creating hype online and offline. Many girls have been inspired by Han and Li, and we have numbers to show that more girls have started participating in basketball on all levels," said China basketball analyst Michael Yuan, founder of Team Fountainhead. "We can also clearly see more news coverage and other kinds of user generated content on China's social media platform." Han's highlights have garnered millions of views on streaming platforms in China. Kuaishou, a global social media platform, recently hosted a livestreaming session with her that generated about 1.6 million views. Han and the 6-7 Li, who is with the Chicago Sky, are the latest of a half dozen Chinese players to have spent time in the WNBA. The first to have an impact in the league was Haixia Zheng, who averaged 8.9 points in two seasons with the Sparks in 1997 and 1998 — starting 21 games her first year. "Homegrown players like Han Xu and Li Yueru succeeding at the highest level drives interest among China's passionate basketball fans and inspires Chinese youth to play the game," said Jonathan Li, senior vice president of NBA China. Chinese fans became aware of Han and Li Yueru during their stints with the Olympic team that finished fifth in Tokyo. But their fan base has grown since both were drafted in 2019 — Han in the second round, Li in the third. "I was very honored to be able to come here to make my dream come true in 2019," Han said through a translator. "At that moment, I just wanted to grow up gradually, to learn from the veteran players who compete in the world highest-level basketball league. "And I also hoped to be able to promote the sport in China with my influence here." Like her childhood hero: the 7-6 Yao. "He had a very successful career in NBA and he also promoted the culture of the sport in China so that now more Chinese people like to watch basketball," Han said. "I hope I can also make some influence in WNBA and then transfer my influence back to my country and let more fans to see the performance from a Chinese player."



Standing 6-foot-10, Han Xu would like to emulate Yao Ming's impact, including his influence on the sport in China. MARY ALTAFFER/AP

Neither Han nor the 6-7 Li, who turned 23 in March, were born when Zheng was doing her WNBA thing in L.A. And neither have Yao's skills — and they may never be as good, not many are. The Rockets made Yao the No. 1 overall pick in the 2002 NBA draft. He has become an ambassador of the game in China and is currently a Chinese basketball executive. Though Han and Li are still honing their skills, the players' popularity is on the rise in China. Han is averaging 9.2 points and shooting nearly 54% from the field while playing about 18 minutes a game with the Liberty. Li hasn't had as much success, averaging just two points a game in Chicago. When they played in New York last month, a handful of Chinese media were on hand. Interviews with the players drew millions of views in China. They will square off again on Saturday and it will be broadcast live in China. "The population of Chinese basketball fans is huge," Li said through a translator. "Fans in China, while they are watching me and Han Xu highlights, will get to know more WNBA players and WNBA teams. I think this is a thing that could benefit me and Han Xu but also could benefit the WNBA as well." Both Han and Li have excelled in the offseason in the Chinese Basketball League that has had WNBA players such as Maya Moore and Sylvia Fowles play in it. "When I was growing up there were a lot of WNBA players who I looked up to," Li said. "There is a lot of WNBA players who I think no matter in what aspect in life or in their career, I think (in) all those aspects they are doing a great job. They are excellent." Han has shown flashes that she could be dominant force in the WNBA. She scored a career-high 24 points against Las Vegas earlier this month. "I think it's a great honor that domestic fans can watch WNBA games on TV in China," Han said. "I think when fans in China watch my play in the league, they can get a better idea about the development of this sport in overseas."

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Bloomfield Henry M. Porter	Middletown Mark K. Charatan
Bristol Gary A. Dixon Nancy H. Donaghy Robert J. Lessard	New Britain Elizabeth M. (Clark) Wieloch
Burlington Robert J. Lessard	Other Towns in CT Woodrow W. Pitkat Renee Smith
East Hartford Gary A. Dixon	Out of State Mary T. Hammond
Enfield Fernand J. Albert	Southington Mary B. Goggin
Farmington Elizabeth F Muirhead	West Hartford Elizabeth F Muirhead
Hartford Henry M. Porter Janusz Szamrej	Wethersfield Mark K. Charatan Janusz Szamrej
Manchester Renee Smith	Windsor Locks Mary T. Hammond

* Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Charatan, Mark K.

Mark Kim Charatan, 67, of Wethersfield, husband of the late Laura (Surmolian) Charatan, passed away on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at his home. Born and raised in Middletown, Mark was the son of the late William and Belle (Lieberman) Charatan.

Mark learned his craft of upholstery from his father and grandfather and worked in the family business, The Central Upholstery Company, for many years before taking over in 2003. He was an avid antique car enthusiast. He loved his two dogs Stella and Max who were very much family to him. Mark was a very outgoing person who enjoyed talking to everyone.

Mark is survived by two sisters, Roberta Sacks and her husband Ronald of Lake Grove, NY and Maureen Bernstein of St. James, NY and several nieces and nephews. Along with his wife and parents, Mark was predeceased by a brother-in-law, Harvey Bernstein.

A graveside service was held in Adath Israel Cemetery in Middletown. To share memories or send condolences to the family, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

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Muirhead, Elizabeth F (Faas)

Elizabeth “Betty” (Faas) Muirhead, 94, of Farmington, formerly of West Hartford, widow of Graham K. Muirhead, passed away peacefully on June 26, 2022. She loved gardening, needlework and reading. She enjoyed helping others and volunteered at St Agnes Home, House of Bread and Meals on Wheels. The role she cherished most was being a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a kind and generous soul who will be missed by many. She is survived by her son, Jon F. Muirhead of West Hartford, a daughter, Marilyn Foley and her husband John of Wethersfield; three grandchildren, John P. Foley and his wife Susan, Megan Copland and her husband, Andrew, Caitlin Chaverst and her husband, Derrick and six great grandchildren, Graham and Hannah Copland, Faye and Tye Chaverst, Liam and Declan Foley. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, July 29, 2022 at 11:00am at Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect Street, Wethersfield. Burial will be private at a later date.

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Smith, Renee Browning Hartzog

Renee (Browning) (Hartzog) Smith, beloved wife of Richard Smith, courageously defeated ALS and returned to The Force on July 16, 2022. She transitioned peacefully, with loved ones by her side, and has already sent several signs to let all know that her spirit is safe and sound.

Born on May 15, 1949, Renee was raised in Vernon by her parents Ernestine “Aggie” and John Browning, whom she joins in spirit along with her sister, Robin Lyn Browning. After graduating from Rockville High School and the University of Connecticut, Renee began her teaching career in 1971 at Vernon Elementary School prior to finding her new home at Bolton Center School, where she taught 2nd and 5th- 7th grade for the next 21 years. In her work, she touched the lives of many people with her humor, compassion, and love of reading. After retiring in 2004, Renee and Richard lived briefly in Willington before moving to Manchester and spending their winters in the Florida Keys. In her retirement, Renee enjoyed traveling with friends & family, walking in nature with her dogs (Sydney & Buddy), cooking with her granddaughter, and rooting for the UConn women’s basketball team. Her spirit now rests on the bluffs of Block Island, a place she considered sacred since childhood.

Renee’s legacy is carried forward by her son, Matthew Hartzog and his wife Renee (Butler) Hartzog; her stepson Jason Smith; her stepson Shane Smith and his husband William Murray; her sister Karen and her husband Bob Weber; her brother Stephen and his wife Joanne Browning; her brother Gene and his wife Ginny Browning; many loving nieces and nephews, and her granddaughter, Allison Hartzog, who will always be her pride and joy.

Renee and her family would like to extend their eternal love and gratitude to the amazing staff at the Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehab, who selflessly cared for Renee and brought so much joy to the last few months of her life.

A celebration of Renee’s life will be held at Georgina’s Restaurant in Bolton on Saturday, July 30th, from noon until 3:30pm. This will be an informal open house event. All who knew Renee are welcome to come and celebrate the impact she had on us all.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online to the Renee Hartzog Smith Memorial Scholarship at BoltonScholarshipFund.org. Checks may be mailed, payable to the Bolton Scholarship Fund, 72 Brandy St, Bolton, CT 06043. Please reference Renee Hartzog Smith in the memo field.

For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.



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OBITUARIES

Dixon, Gary A.



Gary A. Dixon, 75, of Bristol CT passed away on July 5, 2022, after a long courageous battle with cancer surrounded by his family and special friend Jade Vigue. Gary, son of the late Grace C Dixon and Robert J Dixon, was born at Hartford Hospital on March 23, 1947. Gary grew up in East Hartford, graduating from Penney High School in 1966. During high school, Gary played football and was captain of the wrestling team where he won the 145 pound weight class at the CT Wrestling Championships in 1964. Shortly after graduating high school, Gary enlisted in the U.S. Army and proudly served in the Vietnam War. During his time in the service, Gary married and started a family with his ex-wife Linda G Dixon where they had two sons. Gary built his entire career in the food industry, finally retiring from Boston Market in 2019. He took great joy in the many places he worked, always striving to provide the best services to his customers and employees. He carried with him a special place in his heart for everyone that worked with him. He was an experienced runner and bicyclist, participating in countless marathons, road races, and triathlons. He enjoyed his time running and riding with his good friend Joe. One of Gary’s greatest achievements as a runner was completing the Los Angeles Marathon. Gary was a long-time resident of South Mountain Townhouses. He was honored to be a part of this community, where he was always willing to help others and made many friends whom he cared about deeply. He is survived by his son David M Dixon and his partner Marie Rivard of South Windsor. His grandchildren Megan Rivard, Jason Dixon, Matthew Dixon, Kaitlyn Dixon as well as four great-grandchildren. He also leaves his sister, Beverly Southwick of Ellington, his sister-in-law Diane Dixon of Hebron and his sister-in-law Marie Dixon of Windsor. He also leaves many nieces and a nephew. He was predeceased by his son Michael J Dixon and brothers George and Robert Dixon. Gary’s family would like to express their deep gratitude to the staff at the Helen & Harry Gray Center for their wonderful care and to his neighbors for their many acts of kindness and support during his illness. To Mike Emery and Jade Vigue – we will be forever grateful to the both of you. A period of visitation will be held on Monday, August 1, 2022 at Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave, East Hartford from 10:00am-1:00pm with a Celebration of Life Service at 1:00pm. Interment services to follow at Hillside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: The Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center Fund. For an online memorial, please visit www.NewkirkAndWhitney.com.

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Hammond, Mary T.



Mary Theresa Hammond, a long-time resident of Wolfeboro, died on Sunday, the 26th of June at the age of 93. She passed at home surrounded by family and friends. She was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend.

Born on January 20, 1929, in Springfield, MA, Mary spent her youth in Windsor Locks, CT. The daughter of Frederick J. and Mary Kervick; she had three siblings, Joan, Kathlene, and Daniel. After graduating from high school, she went to New Rochelle College in New York City and earned a Bachelor’s degree. During that time Mary met her true love and husband, Frank. Together they raised four lovely children, and before moving full-time to Wolfeboro in 1985, she had a career at Trinity College and JC Penney Distribution Center in Hartford, CT.

During her retirement in Wolfeboro and Vero Beach, FL, Mary hosted international students, traveled in Europe, and enjoyed painting, art, and gardening. On a memorable trip to the Vatican, she had an audience with Pope John Paul II to beatify Reverend Edmund Rice, who was also a distant relative from Ireland. This was a proud moment for her. She was also a devout attendee at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Alton. Her sense of humor and kind heart will be missed. Mary is survived by her brother Daniel Kercick and his wife Claire, four children, Frank and partner Jane, John and wife Lauren, Mary K. and Maureen, and six grandchildren, Colleen, Danny, Sean, Kelsey, John, and Laura, and two great grandchildren Lexi and Damien and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on July 25, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Katharine Drexel Church in Alton, NH.

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Porter, Henry Marion



Henry Marion Porter, 78, of Bloomfield, beloved husband for 42 years of the late Lessie (Nichols) Porter passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at his home. He leaves to mourn his passing, three children, Melanie Anderson of Atlanta, GA, Aaron Walton and his wife Nicole of Avondale, AZ, and Khari Porter of Boston, MA; a sister, Dorothy Porter of Bloomfield; ten grandchildren; a niece and nephew; and his companion, Rose Buckle of Waterbury. His family will receive friends on Monday, July 25, 10-11 a.m., followed by a Homegoing Service at 11 a.m., at The First Cathedral, 1151 Blue Hills Ave., Bloomfield. Burial will follow in Mountain View Cemetery, Bloomfield. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016 or by visiting, www.kidney.org. For online condolences and to read the complete obituary please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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(Clark) Wieloch, Elizabeth Marie



Elizabeth Marie (Clark) Wieloch, 84, beloved wife of the late Philip Joseph Wieloch passed away peacefully at home on Friday, July 22, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. The funeral will be held on Monday, July 25th at 10:15 from the John J. Ferry & Sons Funeral Home, 88 E. Main St., Meriden and at 11 a.m. at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Holy Angels Church for a Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery. Her family will receive relatives and friends at the funeral home on Sunday, July 24th from 4 to 8 p.m. For online condolences, please visit iferryfh.com.



John J. Ferry & Sons FUNERAL HOME

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Szamrej, Janusz

Janusz Szamrej, 73, of Wethersfield, beloved husband for 35 years of Kazimiera (Kus) Szamrej, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at Hartford Hospital. Born in Bialystok, Poland on June 29, 1949, son of the late Boleslaw and Zofia (Kozakowska) Szamrej, he was raised in Poland and was a graduate of Bialystok University of Technology in Bialystok, Poland. After immigrating to the United States in 1978, Janusz settled in Hartford where he had lived for 20 years before moving to Wethersfield in 2002. While living in Poland, Janusz worked as an engineer. After moving to Connecticut he had spent most of his career as a machinist and retired in 2015 after over 20 years at Budney Industries, Inc. in Bristol. A devout Catholic throughout his life, he was a parishioner of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford. Besides his wife, he leaves two children, Piotr Szamrej and his wife Kasia of Poland and Kamila Szamrej, MS and her husband Robert of South Windsor; five grandchildren, Karolina Ponikwicka and her husband Maciej, Maciej Szamrej, and Kuba Szamrej all of Poland, and Adrian Mordasiewicz and Kyle Mordasiewicz both of South Windsor; two great-grandchildren, Laura Ponikwicka and Jeremi Ponikwicki both of Poland; a sister, Helena S. Gorska, MD of Wethersfield; a nephew, Jules Gorski of Wethersfield; and a niece, Elizabeth Gorski of Las Vegas, NV. His family will receive friends on Monday, July 25, 5-8 p.m., at the Waszkelewicz South Green Memorial Home, 43 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford. Family and friends may gather on Tuesday, July 26, 9:15 a.m., at the Waszkelewicz South Green Memorial Home, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial, 10 a.m., at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Hartford. Burial will follow in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford. For online condolences please visit, www.carmonfuneralhome.com.



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Silky vegan treat will be
YOUR SUMMER STAR



Peanut butter, maple syrup, oat creamer, a dash of salt and vanilla go into the recipe for easy vegan peanut butter-maple ice cream.
DAVID MALOSH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS

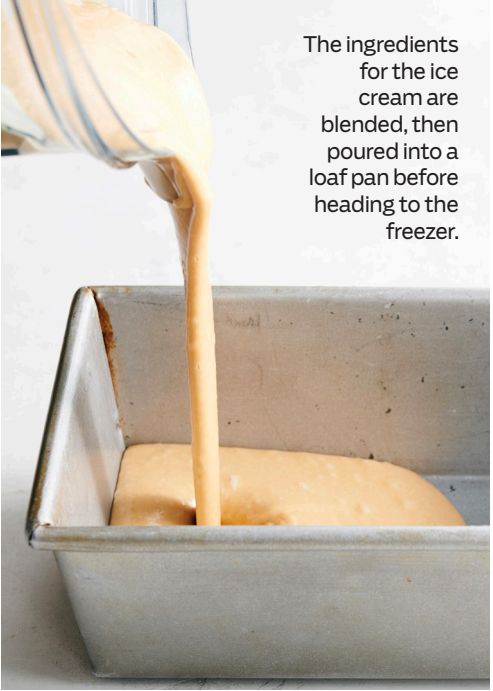
By Melissa Clark
The New York Times

The usual path to homemade vegan ice cream is slicked with dairy-free milk — almond, coconut, cashew, hemp. But there's another option that gives you an even richer, plusher result: oat creamer. With their inherent starchiness, oats can help thicken and stabilize frozen desserts, keeping ice crystals at bay. Many vegan ice cream recipes call for added starch, like arrowroot powder or cornstarch. But oat creamer, a relative newcomer to the alternative milk market, eliminates this need. Another advantage is oat creamer's mild, subtle taste. Unlike, say, assertive coconut milk, it lets the flavor of the more important ingredients shine. In this easy, no-churn peanut

butter-maple ice cream, the oat creamer and the nut butter are whirled in a blender with maple syrup, a pinch of salt and a splash of vanilla. Then, the mixture is transferred to a metal loaf pan and thrown into the freezer, only to be pulled out a few hours later — a creamy frozen dessert that's like the inside of a peanut butter cup melting silkily on your tongue. The only actual cooking involved is simmering the maple syrup for a few minutes to condense it. Doing so both heightens the maple flavor and evaporates excess water, which can lead to iciness. You can use either natural or commercial peanut butter to make this, but the emulsifiers in commercial peanut butters will give your ice cream an exceptionally satiny texture. That said, if you swear by natural peanut butter on your sandwich, you might not mind its more-pronounced

nubby crunch in your cone. Other nut butters (almond, cashew, hazelnut) will also work, if you feel like experimenting. Just make sure to choose ones without added sugar or risk a more cloying flavor. As with any ice cream — vegan or dairy — scooping is always going to be far easier if you take the container out of the freezer at least 10 minutes and up to 30 minutes before serving. This allows the ice cream to soften slightly, but without collapsing into pudding. If you wanted to really play up the peanut butter cup link, you could serve this topped with chocolate of some variety: sprinkles, chips, shavings, fudge sauce, cookie crumbs. But I love to savor scoops unadorned. That way I can fully appreciate the silky texture, a difficult thing to achieve in homemade vegan ice cream. Until now, that is.

EASY VEGAN PEANUT BUTTER-MAPLE ICE CREAM
Makes: About 3 ½ cups
Total time: 20 minutes, plus 4 hours' freezing
¾ cup pure maple syrup
2 cups unsweetened oat creamer
1 cup smooth creamy peanut butter (preferably not natural peanut butter, which can be gritty; see note)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Pinch of salt
Chocolate shavings or sprinkles, for serving (optional)
1. In a small saucepan over medium-low heat, simmer maple syrup, stirring occasionally, until the mixture reduces by a third, 8 to 12 minutes. Remove from heat and let syrup cool completely, stirring it occasionally as it cools. You should have about ½ cup.
2. Place syrup, creamer, peanut butter, vanilla and salt in a blender or food processor (or use an immersion blender), and blend until smooth, 30 seconds to 2 minutes. Pour ice cream into a loaf pan.
3. Cover and place in the freezer to harden overnight or for at least 4 to 6 hours. Remove pan from the freezer at least 10 minutes before scooping and serving, topped with chocolate shavings or sprinkles, if you like.
Note: You can substitute other nut butters (almond, cashew, hazelnut) for the peanut butter. Just make sure to choose ones without added sugar or it may end up too sweet.



The ingredients for the ice cream are blended, then poured into a loaf pan before heading to the freezer.



The BDSM chicken, a whole deboned and fried young hen, served at WenWen in New York. As crispy chicken soars in popularity, Taiwanese American chefs are reinventing the dish. SARAH KOBOS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

TAIWANESE
POPCORN CHICKEN
WITH FRIED BASIL

This spiced fried chicken is a staple in the night markets of Taiwan. You can order the chicken in cutlet form or small bites like these, which are served in paper bags with wooden skewers. This recipe uses a few spices that cannot be skipped: five-spice powder and white pepper. The Sichuan peppercorns are a bonus, adding a little numbing tingle. If you can't find Sichuan peppercorns, use black peppercorns instead. You won't get the same tingly feeling, but the chicken will be just as good. If using gluten-free soy sauce or tamari, this recipe will be gluten free thanks to the tapioca flour, which imparts the dish's signature crunch.

- Total time:** 30 minutes, plus 1 hour marinating
Makes: 4 to 6 servings
1 ½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 teaspoons sugar
1 ½ teaspoons Chinese five-spice powder
1 teaspoon ground white pepper
4 teaspoons kosher salt
6 cups vegetable oil
1 tablespoon Sichuan peppercorns or whole black peppercorns
1 cup tapioca flour
1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 1. In a large bowl,** season chicken thighs with soy sauce, sugar, five-spice powder, white pepper and 2 teaspoons kosher salt. Set aside to marinate about 1 hour at room temperature, or refrigerate it overnight.
- 2. When ready to cook,** fit a medium pot with a cooking thermometer and heat vegetable oil over medium to 350 degrees. Coarsely grind the peppercorns in a spice grinder or mortar and pestle, and mix with the remaining 2 teaspoons kosher salt. Set aside.
- 3. Wet** your hands and toss marinated chicken with tapioca flour and about 1 tablespoon water until the tapioca flour looks like small beads and clings to the chicken. (Adding a little moisture to your chicken helps the tapioca flour form small beads that will also stick to the chicken and give it a very crunchy crust.)
- 4. Working in batches,** add the battered chicken to the hot oil and fry until golden brown and crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. With a slotted spoon or spider, transfer fried chicken to a paper towel-lined plate and season each batch with peppercorn mixture.
- 5. Fry** basil leaves until translucent and crisp, 1 to 2 minutes, then scatter over the fried chicken. Serve with leftover peppercorn mixture for sprinkling to taste.
- Recipe by Sue Li

A street-food classic RE-IMAGINED

Taiwanese fried chicken is gaining a foothold in the American culinary landscape

By Cathy Erway
The New York Times

Growing up, chef David Kuo and his brothers played video games in a converted garage in the family's backyard in West Covina, California. Just outside, luffa gourds, garlic chives, sweet potato leaves and other crops beloved in Taiwan grew in his grandmother's vegetable garden.

Yet Kuo's father would often come home late from work with a bucket of Church's fried chicken, and they would dig in as they wrestled pixelated figures on the screen.

The bony pieces were unlike the styles of fried chicken Kuo encountered at street vendor stalls on family visits to Taiwan: yan su ji, boneless popcorn chicken strewn with fried basil leaves, and da ji pai, butterflied boneless breast cutlets. Marinated in soy sauce, rice wine, often garlic and always five-spice powder, then coated with coarse sweet potato starch, fried and finished with a dusting of white pepper, Taiwanese fried chicken is typically served in paper bags, without any sauce, for easy on-the-go snacking.

At Kuo's Los Angeles restaurant, Little Fatty, the poultry on the menu feels familiar, yet distinctive. In a nod to his Taiwanese roots, his American childhood and his fine-dining background, Kuo sells small, bone-in pieces of popcorn quail topped with fried basil, with spicy mayo for dipping.

"It symbolizes Taiwanese cuisine, obviously, but for me, it brings back memories," he said. "Eating something with bones in front of the TV was the ultimate fun."

Interest in Taiwanese cooking is surging in the United States, with cookbooks that chronicle the cuisine dotting the horizon and new shops and pop-ups opening left and right. A cultural tentpole, Taiwanese fried chicken is finding a wider audience of diners and selling out at restaurants in the process. The crispy, aromatic chicken, which often can

be found popcorn-style at boba shops in the United States, is gaining its foothold in the American culinary landscape amid a fried-chicken fervor: Fast-food chains battle for the title of best crispy chicken sandwich. Korean fried chicken chains dot college campuses. Indian fried chicken sandwiches draw crowds and inspire spirited reviews in New York City.

Kuo is among a generation of Taiwanese American chefs who are molding this night-market fixture to fit their own upbringings and tastes. They're tucking Taiwanese fried chicken into sandwiches and steamed buns, serving it atop sliced white bread with pickles and drenching it with sauces in acknowledgment of regional American specialties and their life experiences.

At Java Saga in Atlanta, Alvin Sun serves four different Taiwanese fried chicken sandwiches, the most popular of which is the A.B.C.: Southern-style coleslaw, sweet pickles, jalapeño-American cheese and habanero-mango sauce atop what he calls his Taiwan No. 1 fried chicken cutlet. Customers love it, whether or not they have any concept of what Taiwanese fried chicken should be.

"As long as they have an interest in trying it, they do seem to like it," Sun said.

Java Saga's chicken recipe is well traveled and closely guarded: Sun adapted it from the one his mother and kitchen collaborator, Amy Lee, used to prepare hundreds of pounds of yan su ji for Atlanta's Lunar New Year festival when he was in middle school. She, in turn, had adapted the recipe from a friend who owned a fried chicken business in Taichung, Taiwan.

It may be tempting to conclude that Taiwanese fried chicken evolved from Japanese fried chicken styles like karaage and katsu, given Japan's colonization of Taiwan from 1895 to 1945. But Taiwanese fried chicken's history is quite contemporary, said Katy Hui-wen Hung, a co-author of "A Culinary



Bone-in popcorn quail at Little Fatty in Los Angeles. The dish is inspired by a handful of chef David Kuo's experiences: a childhood enjoying Church's bone-in chicken, visits to Taiwan's street-food stalls and his fine-dining background. LENNY GILMORE/THE NEW YORK TIMES



Katie Liu-Sung is the owner and chef at Chewology in Kansas City, Missouri. KATIE CURRID/THE NEW YORK TIMES

History of Taipei."

Yan su ji dates back to the night markets of the 1970s, around the time the Taiwanese chain TKK Fried Chicken, modeled after Southern-style chicken joints, was founded. As fried chicken's prominence in the country's urban dining scene grew in the 1980s, American chains like KFC proliferated across Taiwan. Da ji pai didn't become a popular street food until the 1990s.

"Spaghetti, fried chicken and pizza were the sort of things that young Taiwanese people go out for, like a

treat," Hung said.

Traditionally, Taiwanese fried chicken is not dipped in a wet batter, and according to some Taiwanese American chefs, it's not Taiwanese fried chicken if it's not lightly coated with sweet-potato starch, which creates an irresistibly crackly crust. And signature to the popcorn chicken style are those deeply fried crystalline shards of jade basil that garnish the bite-size pieces.

Many of today's Taiwanese American chefs are eager to individualize their yan su ji and dai ji pan

while evoking nostalgia for the classics. Eric Sze, the chef and an owner of 886 and WenWen in New York City, does so in a few ways.

There's the popcorn chicken drenched in a hot-honey glaze at both restaurants, and the Notorious TFC sandwich at 886: a da ji pai-style breast on a toasted sesame seed bun (inspired by the 2000 debut of a fried chicken sandwich at a Taipei McDonald's) with pickled daikon and carrot (a hat tip to a vegetable condiment at the Vietnamese restaurant Madame Vo, in the East Village of Manhattan), and a housemade sea mountain sauce (a tomato-y condiment served with oyster omelets in Taiwan).

And then there's the BDSM (brined, deboned, soy milk) fried chicken at WenWen, which opened in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood in March. The elaborate sharing plate defies convention: It's a whole young hen with its feet intact, dredged in an airy, wet batter of whipped silken tofu, soy milk and sweet potato starch that forms a brittle, light crust. The deep-fried bird is sliced into crispy strips for easy eating.

Sze says living in New York City has provided him endless inspiration for reimagining classics.

"To see the boundarylessness of cuisines and just kind of unapologetically stealing from other cultures — that's what's done around the world," Sze said.

If anyone at his restaurants is complaining about

the interpretation, it may be because they can't get enough of it. The dish consistently sells out before 6 p.m.

This moment is especially meaningful to chefs like Katie Liu-Sung, who has been cooking professionally since she was 16. Her first job was at a Church's Chicken in Taichung, Taiwan, where she lived after spending her early childhood in Southern California. The Texas-born fried chicken chain had locations throughout Taiwan in the 1980s and '90s, and she worked at a couple of them over the years, following their formulas for frying chicken and baking biscuits.

Liu-Sung is now the chef and owner of Chewology, a Taiwanese restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri, that serves a classic rendition of popcorn chicken, as well as a steamed bun sandwich with Taiwanese fried chicken, cucumber pickles and chile mayo.

"There's no limitation to what we have to push out on the menu, and that is becoming a really inspiring thing," Liu-Sung said. "If people are really accepting of that here, I think it's really beautiful."

One night this year, a woman walked into the restaurant and began tearing up. The smell of freshly fried Taiwanese fried chicken permeating the room made her emotional, she told Liu-Sung.

"Because it reminded her of home."

Exceptional wine on the West Sonoma Coast

By Eric Asimov
The New York Times

ANNAPOLIS, Calif. — At Peay Vineyards, 53 acres of vines on a ridge near this tiny town just 3.5 miles from the Pacific Ocean, the fog generally burns off by around 9 a.m. and the air begins to warm up. By midday, a breeze starts to blow, ruffling the leaves of the towering redwoods and getting stronger until the fog rolls in again in the late afternoon.

This is part of the challenging viticultural life in the northern part of the West Sonoma Coast, which in May became the newest official American wine appellation.

If the name sounds oxymoronic — it’s not as if there’s an east Sonoma coast — it’s testimony to the gerrymandered nature of American Viticultural Areas, as wine appellations in the United States are formally known.

The new designation was created after years of debate to distinguish the area along the coast from the vast area encompassed by the original Sonoma Coast appellation. When that appellation was established in 1987, it stretched absurdly eastward to areas so far away from the coast that the ocean had little influence on the climate.

So it was that West Sonoma Coast was established, to denote the area actually along the coast, stretching from the Pacific 5 to 7 miles inland, north to the Mendocino County border and south to the Petaluma Gap, another ocean-influenced American Viticultural Area.

The new appellation includes three subregions: the area around the towns of Freestone and Occidental to the south; Fort Ross-Seaview in the center; and Annapolis in the northern reaches of the appellation near the Mendocino border where the Peay brothers



Nick Peay, from left, Andy Peay and Vanessa Wong are seen on June 21 at Andy’s home in Piedmont, California. BRYAN MELTZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES

in 1998 planted the first substantial commercial vineyard in the Annapolis area.

For Peay Vineyards, the new designation comes as an acknowledgment, if not exactly vindication, that the area they pioneered 25 years ago offers distinctive qualities shown transparently in their wines, primarily complex, polished pinot noirs; savory syrahs; fresh, intense chardonnays; and smaller amounts of vibrant Rhône whites.

“The wine, the quality in the glass vindicates our gamble to grow grapes out here,” said Nick Peay, who, with his wife, Vanessa Wong, and brother, Andy Peay, are the three proprietors. “The AVA just helps communicate to the wine-buying public, gets them to try the wine, gets the wine into their glass. The wine can speak for itself.”

The area along the coast

is completely different from inland areas that still qualify for the greater Sonoma Coast appellation, generally cooler in the days, warmer in the nights and wetter. But even within the appellation, the conditions in the subregions vary considerably.

Fort Ross-Seaview, to the south of Annapolis, is partly defined by elevation. Vineyards must be 920 feet above sea level or more, effectively putting them above the fog line. The higher altitude means it’s generally warmer there, with earlier harvests than around Annapolis, which is lower in elevation and cooler by daytime.

Back in the mid-1990s, when the young Peay brothers decided they wanted to plant a vineyard and make wine, they were something of an anomaly. They had grown up in a suburb of Cleveland in a wine-loving family, but Andy had no experience

growing grapes or making wine. Nick had worked for a small winery that bought grapes from all over the Santa Cruz Mountains.

What’s more, neither wanted to make the sort of powerfully fruity, sometimes overripe, high-alcohol California wines that were increasingly in vogue in the late 1990s.

“We were looking for a cooler place than anywhere else,” Andy Peay said. “The theory Nick had was, if we could find a place where we didn’t struggle against the beautiful California sun, we could make wines that were fruity but had other aromatics as well.”

They decided, Andy Peay recalled, to look for ridges in the coastal mountain ranges, places where cool air could penetrate from the ocean but where they had at least a little protection from the fog.

“We drove around in pickup trucks, looking for rivers and low spots and

other things that might indicate fog, like lichen and moss on fence posts and trees,” Andy Peay said. “Ferns would tell you water was trapped in soils.”

They finally found a promising site near Annapolis, an old sheep farm and apple orchard. “The old-timer had a spiral notebook and kept a daily log of temperatures and precipitation,” he said. “We saw how the temperature changed through the season. It had quite a high average precipitation, but it’s California so we don’t get rain in the summer.”

In 1996, they bought 280 acres 600 to 800 feet in elevation.

The brothers began planting the vineyard in 1998, primarily with pinot noir, which, before the movie “Sideways” sent the popularity of pinot noir soaring in 2004, was something of a risk. They planted smaller amounts of chardonnay and syrah and tiny quantities of viognier, roussanne and marsanne.

It would be a few years before they’d have enough grapes to make wine. Nick took on the role of farmer. Andy would handle marketing and sales. In 2001, in time for their first vintage, Wong, an experienced winemaker, joined the team. She has made every vintage since.

The West Sonoma Coast region has blossomed in the past 30 years, beginning in the more southern areas with Summa Vineyard and Coastlands Vineyard near Occidental and Hirsch Vineyards, Fort Ross Vineyard and Flow-ers Vineyards around Fort Ross. The Annapolis area followed. Vineyards in the area now include Hartford Court, Campbell Ranch, Goldrock Estate, Ridgetop Vineyard and more.

Peay’s initial wines were not in the dominant style of the time. They were intense without being heavy or fruity, and taut and refresh-

ing with lively acidity. The aim, Andy Peay said, was to show the characteristics and potential of the vineyard in wines that were intended to go with food. That required him to sell the wines virtually by hand.

Over the past 20 years, the stylistic pendulum of California winemaking has swung in Peay’s direction. Tastes are far more diverse, and the Sonoma Coast has come to be known as a source for fresh, balanced wines, though that depends as much on the intent of the producers as on what vineyards can offer.

After 20 vintages, the Annapolis area is still a challenging place to make wine. Immigration rules and the difficulty of living in the area make it hard to attract vineyard workers. The Peay winery is inland, in Cloverdale, where the 2021 vintage is aging in barrels, because it would have been too expensive to build a winery at the vineyard.

Wong’s winemaking has gotten more precise over time. In good vintages Peay now makes several different pinot noirs, syrahs and chardonnays, a viognier and a blend of roussanne and marsanne (if these two ripen enough for a wine). In addition, they have a second label, Cep, for wines made from purchased grapes that sell for about half the price of the Peay wines.

In 2020, drifting smoke from forest fires forced the Peays to make just 500 cases of their estate pinot noir rather than the usual 2,000. A spring frost this year on May 8 killed an estimated 10% of the crop. The local waterway, the Wheatfield Fork, which empties into the Gualala River, was already dry in June.

Nobody said life working on the West Sonoma Coast was easy. The fog keeps rolling in and the wind will blow. But the wines are worth it.



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, ‘A family like yours.’ That’s when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Call watermelon feta salad a new classic

By Katie Workman
Associated Press

For a fast and easy warm-weather salad, it doesn't get better than watermelon feta.

According to Google Trends, searches for watermelon and feta cheese salads have spiked every July for more than a decade. To taste it is to know why. The distinct and refreshing combo is something I could eat several times a week during watermelon season.

I think it's safe to call it a new classic.

This salad has so few ingredients, you want each to be the best it can be.

The sweeter the watermelon, the more amazing the salad. You can use large, baby, red or yellow watermelons — whatever is available. Seedless watermelons are easy to find these days, and they make the eating experience so much simpler.

If you can chill the watermelon before cutting it, your salad will be good to go. If you start with a room-temperature melon, I recommend chilling the salad before serving.

And if you prefer to make balls with a melon baller instead of dicing the melon, go for it.

Be sure to save any extra for snacking or a watermelon smoothie — no watermelon waste allowed!

Get the best feta you can find, preferably fresh and not packaged. You can choose from French feta, Greek feta, Bulgarian feta or Lebanese feta; see what your cheese counter has on offer.

Dice or crumble the feta — if you choose crumbling, don't crumble it too finely. The pleasure of this salad is in the bites of different flavors, so you don't want them to blend together too much.

Add some mint and red onion. The contrast between the juicy, sweet



Watermelon feta salad is topped with thinly sliced red onion and mint leaves. CHEYENNE COHEN

melon and the crunchy, sharp, peppery onions (not to mention the crumbly, creamy feta) is terrific. Fresh mint ties everything together for some summertime bliss. Mint oxidizes and turns dark quickly after it is cut or torn, so add it just before assembling and serving the salad.

Finally, use a straightforward dressing of olive oil, balsamic or red wine vinegar, and a bit of salt and pepper, if desired. Taste the feta to see how salty it

is before you add salt to the dressing.

You can cube or ball the melon up to two days ahead of time. Drain off any juice that may have collected in the bottom, pour it into a glass and drink up. Delicious! You can also cube or crumble the feta two days ahead of time and store all of the components in the fridge. Leave the assembly for right before you serve the salad. Garnish with some additional fresh mint sprigs if desired.

WATERMELON FETA SALAD

Makes: 6 servings
For the dressing:
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons good balsamic or red wine vinegar
½ teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste
Freshly ground pepper to taste (optional)
For the salad:
6 cups cubed or balled watermelon, chilled
½ cup thinly sliced red onion
1 ½ cups diced or crumbled feta cheese
½ cup whole mint leaves
1. In a small bowl or container, combine the olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt and pepper, if using.

2. In a large, shallow bowl or serving platter, distribute salad ingredients evenly and attractively. Spread a layer of half of the watermelon cubes or balls, then sprinkle half of the onions over it, then the feta. Tear half of the mint leaves into large pieces and sprinkle over the feta. Repeat with another layer of watermelon, onions, feta and mint.
3. Shake or stir the dressing to re-combine, and pour it evenly over the salad. Serve chilled.
Variations: Change out mint for another herb — try chervil, basil or thyme. Add 1 to 2 cups diced, seeded cucumber. Replace the feta with crumbled goat cheese, diced fresh mozzarella or ricotta salata. Add a few handfuls of peppery arugula leaves.



Smoky chili-garlic pork burgers are loosely inspired by Filipino "chori" burgers. MILK STREET

Asian chili-garlic sauce punches up pork burgers

By Christopher Kimball
For Associated Press

For summer cookouts, update long-held traditions with globally inspired flavors — starting with the burger.

This recipe from our book "COOKish," which limits recipes to just six ingredients without sacrificing flavor, is loosely based on a Filipino "chori" burger. It's a spiced chorizo patty topped with a banana ketchup, mayo and a relish called atchara, or pickled green papaya. The sweet-savory toppings wonderfully balance the richness of the chili-spiced pork.

Looking to pare the ingredients down to the essentials, we tried jarred Asian

chili-garlic sauce and were delighted with the results. Most jars at the supermarket contain a bright mixture of chilies and garlic, of course, but also tangy rice vinegar, salt and sugar, making it several seasonings in one.

Since pork burgers tend to dry out easily, we mixed the sauce directly into the ground pork to help keep the meat moist. A smear of chili-garlic mayonnaise reinforced the flavors in the meat mixture.

Pillow-soft, subtly sweet buns are a particularly good match for the tender, juicy burgers. We especially like potato buns or rolls. Serve with lettuce, sliced tomato, pickles or any of your favorite burger toppings.

SMOKY CHILI-GARLIC PORK BURGERS

Total time: 30 minutes
Makes: 4 servings
⅓ cup mayonnaise
5 teaspoons plus 2 tablespoons chili-garlic sauce, divided
3 teaspoons packed brown sugar, divided
1 pound ground pork
2 teaspoons smoked paprika
Kosher salt and ground black pepper
1 tablespoon neutral oil
4 hamburger buns, preferably potato buns
Mix the mayonnaise, 5 teaspoons chili-garlic sauce and 1 teaspoon sugar. In a medium bowl, mix the pork, paprika, the remaining 2 tablespoons chili-garlic sauce, the remaining 2 teaspoons sugar, 1 teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon pepper. Form into 4 patties. In a 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the patties and cook, flipping once, until well browned on both sides and the centers reach 160 degrees, 8 to 10 minutes total. Serve in buns spread with the mayonnaise mixture.

SERIOUSLY SIMPLE

Quick peach tea bread will be your new summer staple

By Diane Rossen
Worthington
Tribune Content Agency

Peach season is in full swing now. I have been delighting in all the ways to develop cooked and no-cook peach dishes. Chilled peach soup, peach salad with arugula and burrata, and roast chicken with peach sauce are just a few.

It's fun to select different peach varieties and taste them to decide on how best to use them in a dish. Some peaches have a distinct, acidy-sweet flavor, while others are pure fruit sugar flavor. There is nothing quite as delicious as eating a perfectly ripe peach over your kitchen sink with the juices dripping.

I recently developed this quick bread that showcases fresh, ripe peaches. You'll need to blanch the peaches to remove their skin. It's easy: Immerse the peaches in a large pot of boiling water and move them around to blanch evenly. The skin will start to split. Depending upon how ripe they are, this can take 30 seconds to a minute. Remove with a slotted spoon, let rest for

PEACH TEA BREAD

Makes: 1 9-inch-by-5-inch loaf
Baking spray
2 ¾ cups all-purpose flour
1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons cinnamon
4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
1 cup sugar
3 eggs
4 large peaches, peeled (2 diced, 2 sliced)
¼ cup peach nectar
1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
Cane or turbinado sugar, for dusting
1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prepare a 9-inch-by-5-inch loaf pan with baking spray.
2. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon into a



This loaf of peachy goodness can be served at any point throughout the day. DREAMSTIME

a minute and then peel off the skin.

You'll notice that this bread has a double dose of peaches. Diced peaches are folded into the batter, and sliced peaches are arranged overlapping on top of the batter. The final touch is a sprinkling of cane or turbinado sugar for a crispy texture.

This loaf can be served throughout the day. It's

wonderful for breakfast, sliced and served at room temperature. It's also delicious toasted with a smear of unsalted butter. I like to serve this at teatime along with a cup of hot English tea or a glass of chilled iced tea. And, finally, it can be served as a dessert with a scoop of peach or vanilla ice cream.

This will be gone before you know it.

medium bowl.
3. Cream the butter and sugar together with an electric mixer in a medium bowl. Add the eggs, one at a time, until blended in and the mixture is smooth. Add the flour mixture alternately with the diced peaches, mixing to combine. Add the peach nectar and vanilla and make sure the peaches are evenly mixed into the batter.
4. Transfer the mixture into the prepared pan and smooth out with a spatula. Carefully place the sliced peaches, overlapping, in the middle of the pan all the way across. Sprinkle the turbinado or cane sugar evenly over the top.
5. Bake for 1 hour, or until a wooden skewer comes out clean from the center of the loaf.
6. Cool in the pan for 30 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack. Reverse it onto a rectangular serving platter. Cut a few slices for a pretty presentation and serve.